

The Rev Ian Paisley's parade of "loyalist" strength in Ulster yesterday has brought swift condemnation. In the demonstration, 400 men were drawn up and, at a whistle blast, apparently raised firearms certificates in their right hands [Report, page 3]. The Government said any illegal act would be dealt with and the Official Unionists condemned the parade as a publicity stunt.

...on Craig Seton
affair.

The exhibition of 500
Northern Ireland "loyalist"
said by the Rev Ian Paisley
has legally-held weapons
id to be prepared to take
ganized action to prevent the
tion of Ireland, was swiftly
announced by both sides in the
ovince yesterday.

Accusations were made that
r Paisley, leader of the Ulster
democratic Unionist Party, was
establishing a private army or
paramilitary force and in Bel-
fast, the Ulster Defence Regi-
ment announced that it was
as investigating the parading
the men in the Antrim moun-
tains early yesterday.

The Northern Ireland Office
id Paisley's action would
help to return the province
to normal. It said that the
teaches of the law would have
dealt with by the security
forces.

Mr Gerard Fitt, former leader
of the Social Democratic and
Labour Party, wanted an inquiry
into the matter. He said the
certificates. Mr Paisley
claimed the men possessed were
genuine and, if so, whether that
meant that some members of
the security forces might be
involved.

Many politicians said the
carrage affair had been stage
managed to affect the outcome
of local government elections
in May. They accused Mr
Paisley of playing on the fears
of Protestants over British talks
with the Irish Republic.

Mr John Cusack, the general
secretary of the moderate Alli-
ance Party, said it was a blatant
attempt to exploit the genuine
fears of Protestants for Mr
Paisley's "own narrow self-
ish ends."

He demanded that Mr Hum-
ber, Atkins, the Secretary of
State for Northern Ireland,
should deal severely with any
tempt by the organization to
use the law.

Mr Atkins announced last
night that after consultations
with his security advisers he
did intend at present to per-
secute the paramilitary Ulster

Defence Association, which has
said it will contest May's local
elections.

There was concern yesterday
that members of paramilitary
groups, even members of the
Ulster Constabulary or
the Ulster Defence Regiment,
might have been among the
500 men.

Five selected journalists,
including myself, were taken
to see the demonstration of
strength. We heard a bitter and
furious attack on Mrs Margaret
Thatcher's talks with the Prime
Minister of the Irish Republic
last year and the joint studies
which are now taking place.

Mr Paisley said that North-
ern Ireland's constitutional
position was on the negotiating
table. He demanded that the
talks should cease immediately.

He said that the 500 men
were prepared to resist to the
death any attempt to form a
united Ireland and that they
represented thousands of
"loyalists" who would defend
the union with Britain. He
added: "We Government inter-
fere with us and our province
if they dare and we will with
equanimity await the result."

The Protestant *News Letter*
newspaper commented yester-
day that a successor to Lord

Carson's Ulster Volunteer Force
had been born and that the
men would be led and be
assumed by Mr Paisley.

With the H-bloc issue blow-
ing up again and another
hunger strike threatened in
the weeks Mr Paisley's action
means that the Government
turned relentlessly on the Gov-
ernment from both sides of the
political divide.

The Social Democratic and
Labour Party said that the
province has witnessed a para-
military force intimidating the
British Government and the
people of the province.

Mr Pitt, now an independent
MP, said, for instance, that
the show of strength could not
be ignored. The Government
should find out what guns the
500 men possessed (journalists
were given no opportunity to
examine the certificates "the
men carried") and whether
they belonged to the security
forces.

When Mr Paisley paraded the
men he was careful to insist
that no weapons were present
or uniforms worn. It was not
clear whether the paramilitary
or no paramilitary groups
were involved. When he was
asked directly if members of
the security forces were present
he refused to answer.

The Official Ulster Unionists,
who oppose Mr Paisley's Demo-
cratic Unionist Party said
through one of their leading
figures, Mr William Thompson,
that the incident was a publicity
gimmick designed to demon-
strate that Mr Paisley was a
"normal" day. Lord Carson, in
reality he was the Grand Old
Duke of York who, having led
his men up the hill, would
march them down again after
the elections in May.

Whitehall reacted. MPs at
Westminster believed that Mr
Paisley was indulging in an
electioneering stunt timed for
the local elections (Our Politi-
cal Staff writes). Some mem-
bers were perturbed at the
development and it is expected
that it will be raised in the
Commons on Monday.

Mountainside parade, page 3
Leading article, page 15

The Rev Ian Paisley after the demonstration yesterday.

Tom Clifford Webb
Islands Industrial
Corporation
Irvington

A mass meeting of employees of the Longbeach plant, attended by more than two to one yesterday against a strike to secure the reinstatement of six stewards. It was the second "buff for shop stewards" held this week.

On Monday the works committee led by Mr Jack Adams, the plant convener, had proposed a meeting of more than 100 employees to back a campaign of selective strikes. The stewards insisted, however, at the issue was too serious to be decided by them and could be put to the 15,000 work force.

In the event only 5,000 came to yesterday's meeting on a "limited basis." Adams delivered a detailed review of the circumstances leading to the riot of November 21 and the dismissals that followed.

After 15 minutes groups of workers began to get restless and chanted: "Vote stewards!" and "Vote out the fifth class of a bank of loud-speakers." Mr Adams pressed on. He freely admitted that disgraceful things happened

on November 21, including extensive damage to the company property, but no personal possessions of workers who tried to remain at work.

But he insisted that it was an expression of the definition felt by workers blocked every turn by a recalcitrant management. Dismissal of much too severe a punishment for the six men was the only avenue remaining to force the company to be less sensitive.

The meeting overwhelmingly rejected his recommendation.

Unlike his flamboyant predecessor, Mr Derek Robinson was dismissed last year, urging a campaign of disruptive strikes.

Mr Adams has been a moderate polemic in leading the back. He was well aware of widespread antipathy to a strike action and sought to confine it to a show of force to the vital Metro assembly.

Mr Adams was manoeuvred by shop stewards representing other sections of the plant who knew, he said, that the company workers would not endanger their new production bonuses, now more than a week. Letters, paid

By Frances Gibb

Miss Patricia Harman, legal officer of the National Council for Civil Liberties, was guilty of a serious contempt of court, in releasing Home Office documents read out in open court to a journalist, the Court of Appeal ruled unanimously yesterday.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said he regarded the use made of the documents by the journalist in the case to be "highly detrimental to the good order of our society".

He added: "They were used so as to launch a wholly unjustified attack on ministers of state and high civil servants, who were only doing their best to keep the country free from the evil of the wicked criminal who had harassed society and was serving a long sentence for armed robbery."

Miss Harman was responsible for that use. She had abused her privileged position in receiving confidential documents by allowing a journalist free access to them, not caring how he would use them.

"To my mind her part in this conduct, was not 'extremely trivial' as *The Times* described it," he said. "It was a serious contempt by a solicitor of the Supreme Court, which is much to be regretted."

No public interest whatsoever was served by having those highly confidential documents made public. "Quite the other way. It was in the public interest that these documents should be kept confidential and not exposed to the ravages of outsiders."

Lord Denning, Lord Justice Taylor and Lord Justice Dunn unanimously dismissed the appeal by Miss Harman against a judgment in November in an action brought by the Home Office that she had committed a serious contempt of court.

They ordered her to pay all the costs of the hearing, estimated in excess of £15,000, and refused her leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Afterwards, Miss Patricia Hewitt, general secretary of the NCCL, said: "This disgraceful judgment makes a mockery of the law and will have in the future the full reporting of cases of public interest will depend on the whims of the defendant and the financial resources of the journalist."

It was ridiculous, she said, to suggest that Mr David Leigh, *The Guardian* journalist in case, or Miss Harman, should have asked permission from Home Office, which had done everything it could to keep documents secret.

The Court of Appeal created the absurd situation where the Director of Public Prosecutions and those acting for him could inspect press letters written by Jeremy Thorpe, without his permission, but where documents read in open court might not even be shown to a court reporter.

Miss Harman said the ruling was a "disgrace" and she would dare criticize the Government.

The NCCL would ask the Home Office not to enforce the order as to costs. "It is quite unfair that we should have to pay the law to be changed," added.

Mr Robert Kirkroy - S. Labour MP for Orkney - chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party civil liberties group, said: "If Harriet Harman has committed a serious contempt, then the law wrong and must be changed."

There would be tremendous court cases against the Contempt Bill now going through.

Continued on page 2, col.

revaluation of House of Fra-
terties, will form the basis of
aves to defeat a Lornho takeo-
The valuation is believed to
£12m on Harrods alone and £46
all the 111 department store
Lornho has raised its stake in Fra-
29.99 per cent, just below the
99 per cent level which would h-
ade a bid obligatory. It acqui-
4000 shares at 142p each. Sp
an its offer price. The new val-
n would give the group an as-
sessment of 306p a share, more t-
rice that on offer. Page

Pro-Syrian militia claim responsibility for kidnapping the Jordanian chargé d'affaires from his Beirut apartment. They have threatened to murder him unless the Amman authorities release two defecting Syrian air force pilots. Jordan has hinted at Syrian Government connivance.

An amendment to the Nationality Act, 1948, which was passed by the Government in 1986, provided that any child born in the United Kingdom who does not acquire British citizenship at birth shall have the right to obtain it after 10 years continuous residence irrespective of the parents' status.

The inshore fishing fleets of England, Northern Ireland and Scotland are likely to stay in port until Thursday pending the result of talks on common fisheries policies. The talks have been made for other areas, including a demonstration in London and picketing if no satisfactory result is received.

Friendly chat: Señor Adolfo Suárez (right), who resigned as Spain's Prime Minister last week plunging the country into a political crisis, talks with Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Deputy Prime Minister, at the opening of the Centre Democratic Union conference in Majorca. Page 4

£500m torpedo bids

Bids have been submitted for a £500m contract for a heavyweight torpedo to replace the Tigerfish, which has been in service in the Royal Navy's submarines for only eight years

Page 3

A decision by the local authority to withdraw formally from the formula linking firemen's wages with those of skilled workers raised the prospect of renewed conflict within the fire service this year. The employers' future pay talks should take account of circumstances at the time.

America.

Melbourne: Washington to key base in Australia

EEC dispute: Journalists on strike over alleged censor:

Panorama programme

Classified contents: Personal 6, 26; Home and Garden, 24

Home News	2, 3	Features
European News	4	Gardening
Overseas News	4, 5	Law Reports
Arts	9	Letters
Business	19-24	Obituary
Court	16	Paperbacks
Crossword	26	Parliament
Engagements	16	Religion

The Hague, Feb 19 — Margaret Thatcher tonight made an *indirect appeal* to The Netherlands to allow new missiles to be based on soil as part of a Nato rearmament programme.

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WEST EUROPE

Death threat to victim of Basque kidnap

From Harry Debellus
Madrid, Feb 6

An engineer was due to die by midnight tonight according to his Basque separatist kidnappers, unless the Spanish Government agreed to demolish a nuclear power plant under construction near Bilbao.

The terrorist organization ETA had threatened to kill Señor José María Ryan, who was kidnapped eight days ago while on his way from the construction site at Lemóniz to his home near Bilbao.

The ETA has violently opposed the nuclear power plant ever since construction began in 1978. It has bombed, burnt and shot at numerous installations and offices of Iberduero, the company which is building the plant, killing a number of workers and policemen. The latest person to die was one of the ETA's own members killed when a bomb which he placed at a transformer station near Pamplona apparently exploded prematurely.

About 10,000 people marched through Bilbao last night in demonstration which called on the ETA to free Señor Ryan.

A few hours later, in what appeared to be a defiant answer from the ETA, a high-tension tower owned by Iberduero was wrecked by explosives near San Sebastián, cutting off power for 30 miles.

The separatist attacks at Lemóniz are largely responsible for the fact that Spain's nuclear power programme is behind schedule. The first of two reactors at Lemóniz, with a potential of 3,000 megawatts each, should have been in operation by early last year. The second was to have been on stream this year or next.

The unrelenting onslaught is costly not only in terms of the lives lost and property destroyed. The delays are also pushing up Spain's oil imports bill. Señor Ignacio Bayon, the Minister of Industry and Energy, pointed out to a parliamentary committee here last December that a one-year delay in putting a 1,000 megawatt plant into service means the import of 1,400,000 tons of petroleum which would not otherwise have been needed.

Señor Ryan was the twentieth person to be abducted by the ETA since 1970. Police were also searching for another kidnapped man who may be in the hands of the ETA.

He is Señor Luis Suñer, a wealthy industrialist who was hounded out of his office near Valencia 24 days ago by a group of hooded gunmen.

East German footballers reported held

Bonn, Feb. 6.—Three members of East Germany's national football team were arrested at an East Berlin airport and taken away by security officials, the West German newspaper Die Welt reported.

The three Dynamo Dresden stars, Gerhard Weber, aged 24, Matthias Müller, aged 26, and Peter Kotte, aged 26, had been chosen for the national team playing in Argentina this week, and East German superstars were puzzled why they did not make the trip, the conservative newspaper reported.

The three turned up at East Berlin's Schönefeld airport, were taken behind a partition, and driven away separately by state security officials, the newspaper said, citing unofficial East German sources.

The Dynamo team would not comment on the arrests, and a spokesman for the national sports association would say only that the affair was related "to a pending case", Die Welt said.—AP.

Gourmet dies in restaurant

Paris, Feb. 6.—Henri Clos-Jouve, president of the Guild of French Gastronomic Journalists, died while ordering lunch in a Paris restaurant today. He was 80.

A food writer for 50 years, he was considered to be one of the leading French gourmets.—Agence France-Press.

Señor Suárez assails right-wing 'opportunists'

From Richard Wigg
Palma, Majorca, Feb 6

Señor Adolfo Suárez, who suddenly resigned as Prime Minister eight days ago, plunging Spain into a government crisis, achieved a welcome of plebiscitary proportions from some 2,000 rank and file delegates when the Democratic Union (UCD) opened its party conference here today.

The outgoing Prime Minister, who insisted that this was his last conference as party president, obtained almost equally prolonged applause later when he urged the delegates to back Señor Leopoldo Calvo-Sotelo, as present Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic affairs, as the man to succeed him.

King Juan Carlos, and with him most of Spain, is awaiting the outcome of this conference to decide which political leader to nominate to go before the Cortes and seek a parliamentary majority.

The government crisis and the wending battle between Señor Suárez and the UCD "barons", who today looked threatened, explain the intense interest in this conference,



Police dragging away protesters who were trying to stop building going ahead on the controversial Brokdorf nuclear power station near Hamburg. Construction has been resumed after a four-year suspension.

Franco-German summit united in distrust of Britain and America

From Ian Murray
Paris, Feb 6

France and West Germany have closed ranks and put up a firm front against two dangers which their leaders believe threaten Europe: President Reagan's America and Mrs Thatcher's Britain.

The threat from America envisaged during the last two days of talks between Herr Helmut Schmidt and President Giscard d'Estaing during the thirty-seventh summit between the two countries was that President Reagan's tough line could deprive Europe of a meaningful independent voice in dealing with the Soviet Union.

Predictably, the threat envisaged from Britain was that Mrs Thatcher would not heed the spirit of the Treaty of Rome and would thwart attempts to adopt a common fisheries policy, to fix an increase in agricultural prices, and agree to a phasing out of compensatory payments.

The perfect harmony which seems to shine through the final statement agreed by the two summit delegations would indicate that Britain can expect a united front from France and West Germany when it comes to the Brussels negotiations over the European budget, and any alterations in the common agricultural policy.

Finding a rapid solution to the difficulties which have hindered the creation of a common fisheries policy occupied much of the discussions on Europe. Both France and West Ger-

many are being forced to prop up their fishing industries and the two leaders agreed that a "solution" must be found "rapidly".

As a result, it was agreed that Herr Schmidt would seek an early meeting with Mrs Thatcher to try to impress this on her.

For Herr Schmidt the most important part of the statement was that dealing with defence. Both countries reaffirmed their loyalty to Nato, but at the same time agreed to work together to set up a European disarmament conference.

The statement outlined the three requirements the two countries believed had to be met for the "stabilization" of East-West relations: "stabilization" rather than "détente" is what President Giscard has said is now the objective of policies towards the Soviet block.

The requirements were: a security balance; moderation in political behaviour; and equality of responsibility towards the "great powers" of the world.

The desired security balance would be achieved by refusing either to accept a position of weakness or to seek military superiority.

The call for moderation was clearly aimed at both President Reagan and the Kremlin. It should be moderation according to the conditions in the Helsinki Agreement. This meant that Poland would have to be allowed to solve its own problems peacefully and without external interference.

The chairman of Die Welt's works council, representing the journalistic and non-journalistic staff, confirmed the contents of The Times report in a radio interview today.

He added that he believed many of the journalists were prepared to strike in support of their cause.

He also predicted that many journalists would leave the paper if its political lines were changed again.

Herr Springer complained that the "unreliable" Times report failed to mention that he was crying out for the Die Welt financial problems. He said: "I confidently hope that I... will be more successful in the future than the present owner of The Times". He would not let these efforts be impaired by polemics or speculative attempts at interference.

Herr Springer appeared to be under the impression that the term right-wing referred mainly to his passionate pro-Israel and pro-Jewish views and accused The Times of having a basically anti-Israel attitude.

Underlining the importance of the UCD staying united, Señor Suárez said: "If we leave this conference divided we shall only constitute the small fragments of an historic failure."

Most of his speech was devoted to the theme of party unity and his contention that the existence of a political force occupying the middle ground was vital for Spain's new democracy. "They attack us because the UCD contributes the element of equilibrium in Spanish society," he said.

The party had been put in power by seven million voters not as a conservative party, attempting to resist change, but to realize the social changes required, in a spirit of common sense and in a reformist way. It must decide in Palma the basic political strategy and programme right up to the next general election, he said.

Señor Suárez had arrived here from Madrid last night with a team of no less than six conference aides, looking obviously as if still in power, although he had just held his last Cabinet meeting.

The so-called "critical sector" of the party, chiefly the Christian Democrats (the best org-

"This moderation is everywhere—both inside and outside Europe—incompatible with the recourse to force, with the politics of false compromise, and with attempts to ensure unilateral advantages."

The "great problems" of the world were those of poverty, hunger and the quest for economic stability through a more moderate evolution of oil prices. The statement ended with the somewhat unctuous suggestion that overcoming the difficulties of the Community, improving Europe's political cohesion and assuring the stability of the economy were the conditions needed to ensure that Europe conformed to its historic role.

The apparent unity on most of the main points discussed was important to President Giscard d'Estaing for domestic political reasons. His close relationship with the West German Chancellor has been one of the basic factors of his policy.

Among the subjects treated in meetings held parallel to the summit was Japanese trade. Both countries agreed that the Japanese market should be opened to more European imports, while Japanese manufacturers would have to show more restraint in selling to Europe. This would be taken up with Tokyo.

A cultural statement was agreed, which looks ahead to the establishment of a research institute in France, dealing with contemporary German, and mutual improvements in the teaching of history and language.

Terrorists kill policemen in gun battle

Padua, Feb. 6.—Right-wing terrorists killed two carabinieri yesterday evening in a gun battle on a council bank on the outskirts of Padua, police reported today. A wounded man was arrested last night at a flat in Padua.

Police identified the man as Valerio Fioravanti, aged 22, known to the police as a member of a neo-fascist extremist group calling itself Third Point. They said Signor Fioravanti was wanted for questioning in connection with a series of right-wing terrorist crimes, including the bomb explosion at Bologna station which killed 86 people.

Wrong target? Terrorists in an apparent mix-up of targets, bombed the Nationalist Chinese Embassy to the Vatican today, causing heavy damage but no injuries, police reported (AP wire from Rome).

A self-styled Maoist-Leninist group claimed responsibility for the attack in a telephone call to an Italian news agency, saying the bomb was intended to dramatize its demand for the release of Jiang Qing, the convicted widow of Chairman Mao.

allied of all UCD factions) and the liberals said after the delegates' reception, that they were still ready to do battle with what is known as the "official sector", led by Señor Suárez, because he still controls the powerful party secretariat.

This consists of many former officials of the Franco regime, like Señor Suárez himself.

The critics presented their own candidate, a Christian Democrat, for the conference chairmanship, but Señor José Pérez Llorca, the Foreign Minister and the candidate of the "official sector", obtained two-thirds of the delegates' votes.

Their candidate obtained about 100 votes less than the 700 conference delegates who signed the pre-conference manifesto attacking Señor Suárez's presidential style of running the party, and demanded that elections to the national executive should be on the basis of proportional representation.

The critics today also insisted that Señor Suárez should not present himself on any of the lists of candidates for the party executive. Who should replace him as party president will be decided on Sunday, before the conference ends.

OVERSEAS

General's reservations on UN plan for Namibia

From Nicholas Ashford
Windhoek, Feb 6

Major-General Charles Lloyd, the officer commanding the South African Defence Force and the South-West Africa Territory Force (ethnic units) in Namibia, said today he still had a number of military reservations about the United Nations settlement plan for the territory in particular the proposal to establish a 60-mile wide demilitarized zone along Namibia's northern border.

General Lloyd rejected claims made by United Nations negotiators and Western observers at last month's Geneva conference on Namibia that only such a settlement would ensure the implementation of the military aspects of the plan still had to be resolved.

Addressing a press conference for foreign correspondents in the Namibian capital, the general also claimed that South Africa could have won the bush war against the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) by now if it had not been for the self-restraint shown by the Defence Force when striking at Swapo bases in southern Angola.

"We know of some beautiful targets over there," he said, "but we do not go for them because we do not want to hurt civilians, cause unnecessary damage to the local infrastructure." He said the war was against Swapo and not against Angola, although he admitted that innocent civilians did sometimes get hurt as a result of the Defence Force's cross-border operations.

General Lloyd's reservations about military aspects of the United Nations plan are further evidence that the South African Government does not intend to go ahead with a settlement along the lines laid down in Security Council resolution 435 for the foreseeable future. South Africa, which is trying to buy time for the internally based Democratic Turnhalle Alliance to establish itself as a viable alternative to Swapo, is also seeking guarantees of the United Nations impartiality before agreeing to go ahead with the settlement plan.

The main military objection to the plan concerns the demilitarized zone which would stretch for 30 miles on either side of the territory's entire 700-mile frontier. General Lloyd said Swapo would make use of the withdrawal of South African troops from this zone to infiltrate the area and to intimidate the local population.

As more than 60 per cent of the territory's one million inhabitants live within the proposed zone this would have a major impact on the outcome of the election.

"I do not believe that resolution 435 and the establishment of a demilitarized zone can ensure the holding of free and fair elections," General Lloyd said. He added that if his forces, which are based in number on the 20,000 men, were unable to prevent Swapo infiltration then 5,000 United Nations troops deployed in the demilitarized zone "have not a hope in hell of doing so."

Despite his reservations about the United Nations, General Lloyd said there had to be a political rather than a military solution in Namibia.

Party moves: In the wake of the collapse of the Geneva talks on a United Nations settlement in Namibia, leaders of the territory's internal political parties are considering steps to consolidate the internal regime which was set up after an election sponsored by South Africa in 1979 (Eric Marsden writes from Johannesburg).

Just today after two days of talks in Cape Town between Namibian internal leaders and South African ministers, including Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, no statement was issued after the meeting, but Mr Dirk Mudge, the chairman of the National Council of Ministers said later that his Democratic Turnhalle Alliance had proposed the setting up of a South-West African Government of national unity.

Russians say icon dealer is defending smuggling

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 6

A Soviet newspaper which has charged a London icon dealer with smuggling stolen icons to Britain for sale by London galleries has accused a British icon dealer of using The Times to reassure potential clients worried by Soviet anger over the affair.

Mr Vladimir Simonov, the London correspondent of the weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta, suggested that a letter published in The Times on January 19 from Mr C. M. Martin describing how icon smuggling worked, was an attempt to justify what Mr Simonov called the dirty trade and allay the worries of diplomats who were acting as couriers in smuggling the icons across the Soviet border.

He described how he had tried, on reading Mr Martin's eight-point letter, to get in touch with him. He went to the gallery in Kensington Church Street, the address given in the letter, only to be told that Mr Martin had moved long ago and nobody knew where he now lived—"something quite unimaginable according to English tradition".

Instead, he said, he was received by a man who offered to put him in touch with other galleries dealing in icons. But such galleries, he said, were "guarded more strongly than banks"; and he described an attempt to visit another gallery where an icon stolen

Gunmen storm flat in Beirut and abduct Jordan envoy to force return of defecting Syrian pilots

From Robert Fisk
Beirut, Feb 6

Two apparently pro-Syrian militia groups claimed this afternoon to have been responsible for kidnapping Mr Hisham Muhaissen, the Jordanian chargé d'affaires in Lebanon.

In what looked suspiciously like an extension of the political dispute between Syria and Jordan, a telephone caller dialled the broadcasting offices of the Christian "Voice of Lebanon" radio station to say that Mr Muhaissen would be executed if two Syrian air force pilots—who had defected to Amman—were not returned to the Damascus authorities.

Mr Muhaissen's elegant apartment block in western Beirut—the Muslim side of the Lebanese capital—was stormed by at least 20 gunmen this morning. They machine-gunned one of the diplomat's bodyguards to death in the front yard of the building, accidentally killing a Lebanese motorist at the same time, then burst through the glass doors of the foyer, peppering the walls with bullets.

Mr Muhaissen was in his second-floor flat when the gunmen shot off the door lock of his apartment and sprayed the living room with gunfire. He and his maid were in their bedrooms and both were immediately seized and taken down

to the street where they were driven away in one of four cars used by the kidnappers.

A Syrian army roadblock is positioned scarcely half a mile from Mr Muhaissen's home, but long before the first telephone caller had claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, the Jordanian government was hinting strongly that the Syrian government had a hand in the affair.

"A certain side that is accustomed to move in darkness" was their claimed rather picturesquely, responsible for the kidnapping.

The first claimant to responsibility announced to the "Voice of Lebanon" that he represented an organization calling itself "The Eagles of the Revolution" and demanded the return of the two defecting pilots.

The caller said the pilots were members of the Muslim Brotherhood, the underground extremist movement which has carried on a ruthless war against President Hafez al-Assad's regime in Damascus for the past two years.

The radio station is owned by the Christian Phalange Party which is in a coalition with the Lebanese police, however, added some credence to the suspicion of Syrian complicity by disclosing that they had found pamphlets at Mr Muhaissen's apartment signed

by two more groups, this time calling themselves the "Left Arab Nationalist Organization" and "Vanguards of Revolutionary Justice". The documents denounced Jordan as ally of "imperialism" and Zionism, and of lying to Syria.

Nevertheless, it has become rather too common a practice in Lebanon to blame Syrians for every unsolved murder or kidnapping. It scarcely anyone here doubts that the long arm of the Syrian secret service operates ruthlessly in Beirut, it is a fact that many Lebanese choose to forget the occasions when Syrian troops fight their way into the city's western suburbs to break up the vicious wars of the Lebanese militia.

A Palestinian group and a Lebanese Liberation Organization (recent relations with King Hussein of Jordan, for instance, to have had reason to kidnap Muhaissen).

Palestinians were believed to be responsible for the kidnapping and murder of the United States Ambassador in Beirut during the civil war four or five years ago although murder of numerous Lebanese journalists—including the country's most accomplished publisher, Mr Selim El-Loz—will have been the work of Syrians.

US farmers lobby for end of grain embargo

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Feb 6

President Reagan met a group of spokesmen from the farming industry this morning, to hear their pleas that the grain embargo against the Soviet Union should be lifted, and that federal help for farmers should continue at present levels.

He has already seen a group of mayors of the country's main cities and many others will pass through his office in the next 10 days, attempting to persuade him to lift his budget cuts on someone else.

In his broadcast to the nation last night, Mr Reagan promised deep cuts in the budget but did not say where they would fall. He said that the current year would end on September 30 with a budget deficit of about \$80,000m (\$33,236m). He said that the budget was out of control and that he would do something about it.

He will present his economic policy or at least a first instalment of it, to Congress on February 18. He has been reported to want to cut \$50,000m from next year's budget.

The speech contained few hints that the process of controlling inflation would be painful and no details of how it could be done.

He said that government "has reached, indeed surpassed, the limit of our people's tolerance or ability to bear an increase in the tax burden". He will therefore propose across-the-board cuts in taxes of 10 per cent a year for each of the next three years.

Hopeful start to talks about Belize

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Talks on the future of Belize between British and Guatemalan officials in New York continued yesterday after a reasonably hopeful start.

The discussions are seen as a "make or break" effort to reach a settlement over this long-standing colonial dispute, before Britain convenes a constitutional conference, expected to start in London next month. Independence for Belize would then follow, according to the United Nations resolution which Britain has endorsed.

Threat to kill the crew of hijacked airliner

From Trevor Fishlock
Delhi, Feb 6

More than 12 years ago Mr Birendra Rout was arrested on charges of robbery and murder. He is still in prison awaiting trial, according to a report just made to the Supreme Court of India.

He is in jail in the northern state of Bihar, whose government was ordered by the Supreme Court recently to provide details of people in custody.

Expressing concern over "the disturbing state of affairs" in Bihar, the court has ordered the state government and law authorities to dispose of the cases of thousands of people who have been awaiting trial for more than two years.

The court has been told of four young men who have been in a Bihar prison for eight years without trial. It has heard that there are 19,000 cases of people waiting for hearings to begin a year after they were first committed for trial.

It has asked the Bihar authorities to explain why a number of prisoners have been waiting

Nkomo man dies in car blast

From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, Feb 6

A senior member of Patriotic Front party died tonight of injuries sustained in a car explosion in a Salisbury suburb this afternoon.

Mr Nelson Murembi, a member of the party's central committee and one of Mr Jos Nkomo's delegates at the casket. House talks apparently just returned to home in Waterfalls when car blew up in the drive.

A nephew of Mr Murembi, Mr Wilson Murembi, also in the blast.

Mr Murembi, who was about 50, was the manager of Salisbury's main hotel, owned by Patriotic Front, the military party in Zimbabwe's coal.

Mr Josiah Chinamano, president of the party, said the party would not issue statement tonight.

The explosion comes time of tension in the town of Chitungwiza, to the south of Salisbury. Armed former guerrillas of Zipra, the military wing of the Patriotic Front, being moved from the area.

Earlier in the week, former guerrillas refused to move but last night about 100 were taken to an assembly point near a way.

An inevitable comparison was made between Mr Murembi's death and the assassination of Herbert Chitepo, a prominent figure in the nationalist movement.

Salisbury letter, p4

India Supreme Court order will set thousands free

From Trevor Fishlock
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It has asked the Bihar authorities to explain why a number of prisoners have been waiting

for trial for more than years, and why more people have not been released on bail.

The administration of justice in several parts of India is in a state of chaos. There are thousands of cases pending in the courts. Many of them will have to be tried in the near future.

Nowhere is the position worse than in Bihar. The government and judicial authorities say there are thousands of prisoners in the Supreme Court's custody.

The Supreme Court's order to Bihar to dispose of cases quickly is meant to apply to other parts of India. The order should set free thousands of prisoners who have been in jail longer than the minimum sentence for the crimes they are alleged to have committed. But given the chaos in Bihar's courts, and the judicial backlog, it is by no means certain those eligible for release will be freed as quickly as the Supreme Court would like.

OVERSEAS

Many demonstrators arrested in violent Tehran street clashes

Violence returned to the streets of Tehran today as students and Muslim fundamentalists fought pitched battles in the city. At least 45 people were taken to hospital, some with bullet wounds.

Many demonstrators were arrested in the clashes, in some cases the fundamentalists themselves. They were taken to a police station and then to a military court.

The violence began after supporters of two leftist groups tried to force a government order to close the city's main demonstration square, a move they said was a violation of the constitution.

A police spokesman said that the match was organized by the "splitter" faction of the Islamic Revolutionary Front, a group of students and leftist groups. The group was accused of being responsible for the deaths of several people in the city.

Last night the radio and television repeated the government's statement that the city was in a state of emergency and that the government was taking measures to restore order.

The demonstrators, who were armed with stones and clubs, were fired upon by police. The police used tear gas and live ammunition.

The demonstrators were arrested and taken to a police station. Some were taken to a military court.

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Compassion outweighed by military tradition

From Michael Leapman
New York, Feb 6

The five marine officers who convicted Private Robert Garwood yesterday of collaborating with the enemy in Vietnam, were faced with a painful dilemma during their two days of deliberations. They had to balance their devotion to the service and its traditions against the compassion they must have felt for the accused.

The facts of the case were scarcely in dispute. During his 14 years with the communists in Vietnam, Private Garwood had collaborated with them, learning their language, carrying weapons for them and helping them administer American prisoners of war.

Whether it was fair to call him, as one of the prisoners did, a "white Vietnamese" was debatable. Yet he certainly aroused the rage of prisoners, as they testified at the court martial, by seeming to identify with their captors rather than with his fellow countrymen.

On the other hand, here was a man of limited mental capacity who had been subject to just how severe the pressure was never exactly established—since his capture in 1965, when he was 19 years old. The defence argued that this pressure, together with his difficult childhood, meant that he could not be held accountable for his conduct.

Private Garwood's misfortunes began when he was a baby. Doctors testified for the defence that he had been dropped on his head and suffered a slight but recordable brain damage. His mother left home when he was four and he had stormy relations with his father. He ran away from home and joined the marines partly so that he could be released from a home for wayward boys.

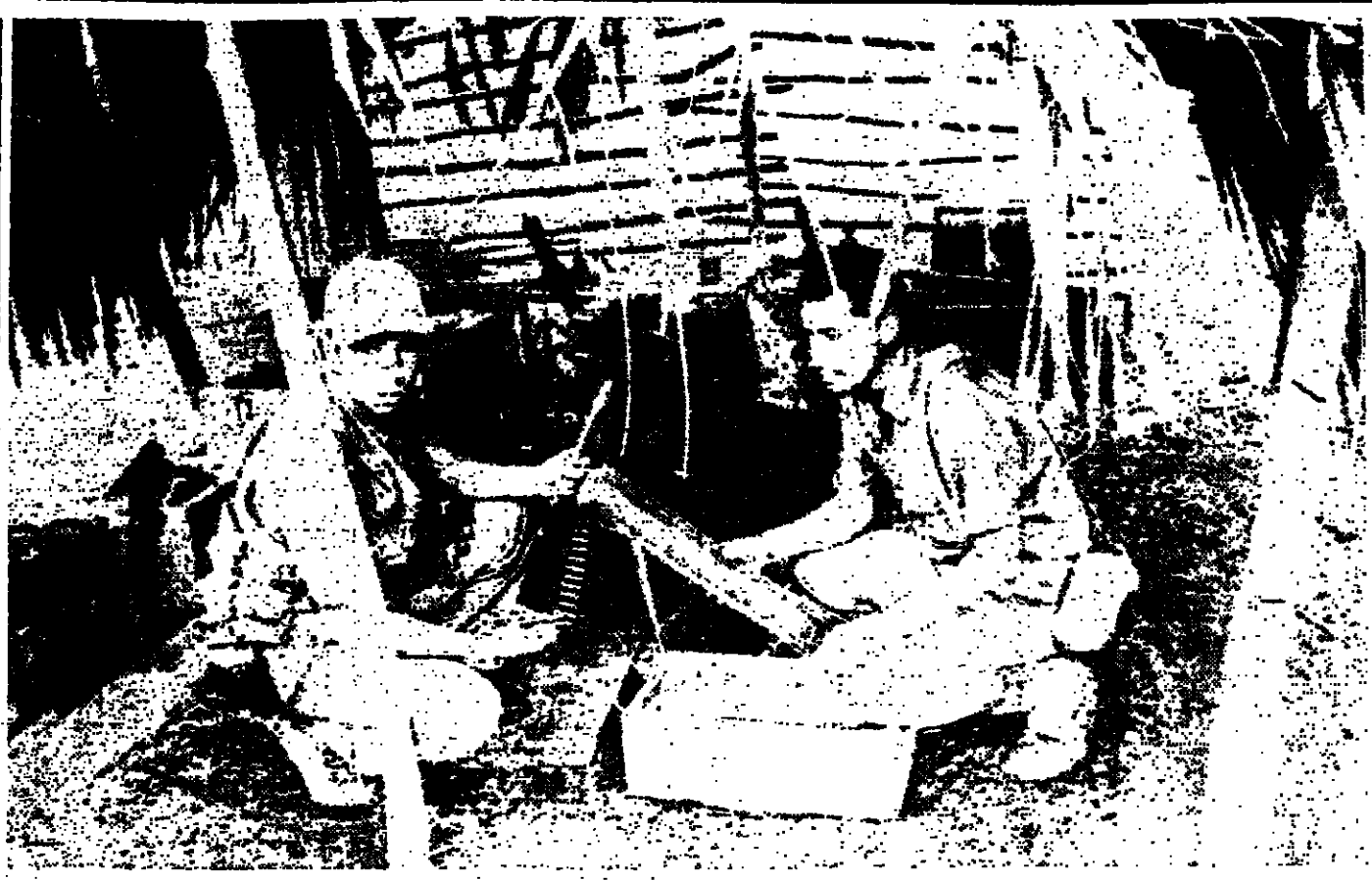
All that left him with mental scars which made him prone to persuasion by his captors in Vietnam. The defence said that he was unable to make rational judgments about his actions.

In deciding to convict him, the five marine officers seem to have relied heavily on the military code of conduct, which says in part: "I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions."

In practice, that has been modified in the case of other returned prisoners of war. Modern techniques of coercion have, since the Korean War, been recognized as so powerful that unpatriotic statements made under pressure are no longer made a subject of prosecution, so long as the servicemen involved "bounce back" to loyalty once the pressure is lifted.

Private Garwood, who stayed in Vietnam until 1979, was judged not to have purged himself in this way. The marine authorities felt that if what they saw as so gross a breach of the code was not punished, it would retain no meaning at all. The jury obviously agreed.

The case has provoked surprisingly little comment here. The Vietnam War seems a long time ago; a painful experience for Americans, who do not seem anxious to revive its memory. Further hearings will be held at which Private Garwood's sentence will be decided by the jury members who convicted him.



Peruvian army officers showing weapons they captured from Ecuadorean troops last week.

Washington to expand key base in Australia

From Douglas Aiton
Melbourne, Feb 6

The United States base at Pine Gap, near Alice Springs in central Australia, will be expanded to increase America's ability to strike the Soviet Union with nuclear missiles.

The Defence Department revealed that Australia had agreed to the expansion after a request from Washington in August last year.

Under the agreement, the United States will install more advanced electronics and communications equipment and increase the number of American experts at the base.

The decision came after America changed its nuclear strategy to give priority to attacks on Soviet nuclear missile sites in a first strike rather than on cities.

A Defence Department spokesman would provide few details of the build-up at Pine Gap. A short statement issued by the department yesterday referred only to "additional construction at Pine Gap."

The statement said a 75ft by 200ft extension would be made to one of the buildings at the base. The statement said that the new construction would not affect the function of the base, which has never been revealed to the Australian public.

Defence experts say the base could play a vital role in pinpointing Soviet targets on land and sea. The base also can give precise navigational aid and orders to nuclear armed American submarines around the world.

Successive Australian governments have acknowledged that Pine Gap and another communication base at Exmouth on the North West Cape in Western Australia would be certain nuclear targets in a war.

In March Mr James Killen, the Minister of Defence, told Parliament that Australia risked attack in a nuclear war whether or not it allowed American facilities in the country.

Under the revised United States nuclear policy, initiated by President Carter, all American communications bases will be expected to play a bigger role in giving early warning of Soviet nuclear attacks and in monitoring Soviet military movements by relaying signals from satellites to the Pentagon.

Pine Gap is one of only two ground bases which receive the early warning signals.

When details of the United States request to upgrade the base were published in August last year, Defence Department officials refused to comment, saying it was official policy neither to confirm nor deny reports about the base.

Japan stages anti-Soviet protest over islands

From Stephen Lee
Tokyo, Feb 6

Japan today celebrated for the first time the day of the "Return of the Territories" since August 1945 despite repeated protests.

Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Prime Minister, is to emphasize in an address that Tokyo is in the second anniversary of the Japanese-Soviet peace treaty signed 126 years ago, which marked the border between the two countries.

The treaty established that the four islands—Korokufu, Huchirufu, Naomafu and Shikotan—were to be returned to Japan.

The islands are located in the Sea of Okhotsk, north of Hokkaido.

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Asean rejects Janoi offer on Kampuchea

From David Watts
Singapore, Feb 6

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) today rejected an unacceptable proposal for a regional conference on Kampuchea.

The five member countries, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines, made known their position through a statement by Mr Rosolom, the Foreign Minister of the Philippines.

The statement said that the proposal ignored the root cause of the Kampuchean problem—the blatant breach in Kampuchea of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter.

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Central Africa to hold March election

Bangui, Feb 6. More than 97 per cent of Central Africans approved a new constitution allowing a multi-party system in a referendum last Sunday, according to official results published last night.

President David Dacko announced that the first presidential elections to be held since the overthrow of Emperor Bokassa will be on March 1.

There are eight political parties in the republic, but it is not yet known how many candidates will stand.

In choosing March 1 as polling day President Dacko has ignored a provision of the electoral law which states that 35 days must elapse between votes. The referendum was on February 1—Reuters.

French settlement programme criticized by Guiana socialists

Laos refugees find new life in South America

From Danielle de Meyer
Agence France-Presse
Guayenne, French Guiana, Feb 6

Forty men, women and children arrived in this French overseas territory on the night of September 1977, and are taken immediately into the Amazonian forest. The group is the vanguard of Hmong refugees from Laos.

Today the Hmong settlers, who fled the central highlands of Laos claiming that they were harassed by the communist authorities in Vietnam, are about 1,000, living in villages of Cacao (50 miles from here), and Jahuvey, near the frontier with Surinam. The Hmong, often incorrectly called Miao, are one of the many tribes of Laos.

Settling the Hmong refugees being carried out by the French Government and a Catholic aid movement, despite opposition from local leaders.

M. Paul Dufoud, the French Minister for Overseas Territories, confirmed recently that settling Hmong in the two villages would continue.

The project was described as "very positive" by Father René Charrier, a French missionary who worked in Laos for 30 years, and accompanied the Hmong here. But he added: "We have to take account of certain human feelings."

Father Charrier helped to found the village of Cacao, which is reached after driving along a 38-mile dirt road through the equatorial rain forest.

Cacao is a vast clearing in the middle of luxuriant vegetation, with its wooden houses, stilted, two churches, its colourful market and hundreds of laughing children.

One thousand five hundred acres have been hacked out of the forest by hand as no bulldozer could be used.

The village itself is surrounded by rice paddy fields and maize and manioc crops, grown with the help of buffaloes from Trinidad which can stand the humidity. They grow also sweet potatoes and soy beans and rear pigs and poultry for their own consumption.

The village produces one ton of fresh vegetables every week and these are sold at neighbouring markets.

The village even has contracts with Paris firms to supply tropical products to France, like 1,000lb of passion fruit a week. This is an unprecedented contract for French Guiana.

The Hmong settlers each received a subsidy of 40 francs (about £3.50) a day over three years and the total investment in Cacao works out at about 17 million francs.

It is estimated that it costs 20,000 francs to clear two-and-a-half acres before being able to plant the first seed. But for the past 12 months the village has been completely self-supporting. Its eight tractors belong to the farm cooperative and three families out of 100 have their own car.

"We have found peace and safety here," the Hmong say. But they have come to know all the problems that plague uprooted communities. The main problem is the feeling of isolation.

The village is cut off from the rest of the country by the thick forest and contacts with local people are minimal. The average age of the village is 15 years. But as it is the Hmong tradition to forbid marriages within the same clan, the village will have to welcome more Hmong settlers so their children can marry.

The Hmong are finding it difficult to integrate here despite great efforts to teach them French. So far only 40 families have become naturalized.

Father Charrier pointed out that "at the beginning it is important for them to retain their cultural identity, customs and language. The second generation, the children of the people here, will start making contacts in the outside world."

The Hmong settlement project has brought protests from local people and their elected leaders.

Senator Raymond Tarcet, vice president of Guiana Socialist Party, which is the main opposition movement, talks about "genocide by substitution organized by the French Government."

M. Elie Castor, chairman of the locally elected 16-member council, said: "Guiana has received its share of Hmong." He sees in their settlement here the "risk of a demographic and political upset."

But Dr Claude Ro-Chuck, the first Guiana mayor to welcome a Hmong community, looks on their settlement as an act of human kindness. He sees Guiana as under-developed and under-populated. "We need all the help we can get to develop Guiana, for by ourselves we shall never succeed."

Doubt over pledge to Mr Trudeau

From John Best
Ottawa, Feb 6

A British Conservative MP has expressed doubt that the Westminster Government will impose a three-line whip to get Canada's constitutional reform package through Parliament.

Sir Anthony Kershaw is chairman of a select committee of the British House of Commons which in a report last week doubted whether Westminster is obliged to pass the package.

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, author of the plan by which the United Kingdom Parliament would be asked to patriate the British North America Act to Canada, has frequently said that he has a commitment from Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, to lay on a three-line whip to expedite passage of the Bill.

But Sir Anthony told a press conference in Toronto yesterday that he had discussed the likelihood of its use with people close to Mrs Thatcher, and was told they doubted she had given Mr Trudeau such a commitment.

At a press conference here yesterday Sir John Ford, Britain's High Commissioner, said it would be a "very great mistake" to assume that British MPs would do exactly what they were asked to do. He said he had conveyed the same message to Canadian cabinet ministers.

Sir John denied charges by the New Democratic Party (NDP) that he had interfered in Canadian affairs by telling an NDP member of Parliament at a dinner party that the constitutional reform was in for trouble at Westminster.

In the Commons, Mr Mark MacGuigan the External Affairs Minister, told Mr Edward Broadbent, the NDP leader, that he was investigating reports of the alleged interference and considering what action should be taken, if any. "If they were true, I might say that such conduct would, of course, be doing a great disservice to the Government of the United Kingdom."

Nicaragua accuses US of economic aggression

From Stephen Downer
Managua, Feb 6

Dr Arturo Cruz, a member of the five-man ruling Nicaraguan junta, has accused the Reagan Administration of using "economic aggression" in an attempt to influence his country's destiny but he says Managua will "not beg" Washington to desist.

If any foreign government tried to crush the revolution, Nicaragua would make "any sacrifice" to protect itself, while it investigates how the money is being used. State Department officials have accused Nicaragua of involvement in El Salvador.

"By alleging we are involved in El Salvador, which we are not, the United States may decide to call in the outstanding balance due," Dr Cruz said. "They may close other markets for us by using their influence internationally."

"The awesome power they have is obvious. But the revolutionary Government is not willing to lose its self respect and the right to self-determination. We are not going to beg."

He said Nicaragua "wants to respect human rights, be non-aligned and to keep a pluralistic system... if our revolution scares the United States, or anyone else and, because of that, they decided to crush us, we are ready to make any sacrifice required."

Dr Cruz said that if the United States withdrew its support, "they would be making a serious error... they would be forcing us to look for cooperation elsewhere... the revolutionary leadership may be obliged to do what it does not want to do, which is to become more radical."

Educated in America, Dr Cruz worked for ten years with the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington.

America has stopped payments and loans to Nicaragua while it investigates how the money is being used. State Department officials have accused Nicaragua of involvement in El Salvador.

"By alleging we are involved in El Salvador, which we are not, the United States may decide to call in the outstanding balance due," Dr Cruz said. "They may close other markets for us by using their influence internationally."

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Dissidents warned in China

Peking, Feb. 6.—Chinese Communist Party members have received a stern warning from a provincial radio station, which emphasized that they were forbidden to support the activities of dissidents.

A transcript of the Nanchang radio comment showed that both right and left-wingers opposed the party central committee line in the central province of Jiangxi.

The broadcast reminded party members that the spreading of ideas contrary to the official party line was "absolutely forbidden" in public and in the media, although any "divergent ideas" that they might have could be expressed within the framework of Communist Party bodies.

The text also warned party members that it was "absolutely forbidden" to refuse to implement policy "on the pretext of holding differing opinions."

Party members were told, without any further detail, that they must not "support the activities of dissidents" or take part in "factional activities while camouflaging themselves behind the party organization."

Nanchang radio recently attacked the presence of supporters of Jiang Qing, Mao Tse-tung's widow.

—Agence France-Presse.

HIGH INTEREST RATE.

Bland Delhi draft upsets non-aligned nations

From Our Own Correspondent
Delhi, Feb 6

Afghanistan and Kampuchea clearly be the dominant forces at the foreign ministers' conference of non-aligned nations in Delhi next week.

A movement will be under way as it tries to retain its peace of unity while warring to compromise on two issues over which its members are strongly divided.

There is disappointment and anger among many countries as the way in which the nations of Afghanistan and Kampuchea are mentioned in the draft declaration circulated by India.

For these countries the declaration is far too bland and does not express what they feel about the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the Vietnamese presence in Kampuchea.

The declaration makes no direct reference to Kampuchea, and calls upon South-East Asian countries to settle their differences without the involvement of outside powers.

On Afghanistan, the declaration expresses strong opposition to the use of force in that country, and to interference in its internal affairs, but does not mention the Soviet Union or call for the withdrawal of its troops.

Some of the non-aligned countries want the Russians to be not only mentioned but condemned.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) is upset that the declaration does not face the Kampuchean question squarely and wants the conference to demand the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops.

The Vietnamese, on the other hand, have expressed their satisfaction with the declaration as it stands and have given a warning that any mention of Kampuchea would lead to confrontation between members of the non-aligned movement and would be dangerous to its unity.

There will have to be some tough talking, especially behind the scenes. The movement, in its twentieth anniversary conference, will be at pains to avoid serious public disagreement.

As well as seeking some acceptable middle-ground formula on the two issues, the movement will also want to demonstrate that it remains as valid as when its principles were set out by its late leaders, Jawaharlal Nehru, President Nasser and President Tito at its founding in Belgrade in 1961.

Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, will attend the conference and will try to get talks started between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

SUNDAY TIMES

business news

BELLS SCOTCH WHISKY

Chinese puzzle—will these men bid a billion to run Hong Kong?

COMMENT

Resist verbal mugging over your pension

Law Report February 6 1981

Dangers to the public interest in abuse of discovery

Home Office v Harman
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Templeman and Lord Justice Dunn

The implied undertaking given by a person to whom the court grants an order for discovery of documents, that the documents will be used solely for the purposes of the action in which they are disclosed, is not released by the documents being read out in court; the confidentiality of such documents is otherwise preserved, and there can be no further use of them or dissemination of their contents without the consent of the owner.

The Court of Appeal dismissed, with costs, an appeal by Miss Harriet Harman, a solicitor who is legal adviser to the National Council for Civil Liberties, from a decision of Mr Justice Park (The Times, November 18, 1980), in which, on the application of the Home Office, he found her guilty of a civil contempt of court in supplying to a Guardian reporter copies of 800 pages of documents which had been disclosed to her in her capacity as solicitor for a client in an action brought against the Home Office. Mr Justice Park had imposed no penalty and made no order as to costs.

Mr Leolin Price, QC, Mr Geoffrey Gifford, QC, and Mr Andrew Nicol for Miss Harman. Mr Simon D. Brown and Mr Philip Vallance for the Home Office.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the judge had made a finding of grave impropriety against her, that she had been guilty of a serious contempt of court. His decision had been criticised in the press. The Times had fairly criticised him. It had said that the decision was "a serious contempt of court". Later Lord Gifford, whose ancestor was Master of the Rolls in 1324, thought that the decision was "a serious contempt of court". He said that the court of appeal might be in no doubt what he thought they ought to do in the particular case. Other peers followed suit, feeling no inhibitions about sub judice. The court could not criticise the House of Lords proceedings. His Lordship would answer the protestations by saying with Lord Mansfield: "We are to say what we take the law to be; if we do not speak out real opinions, we prevaricate with God and our own consciences. It is for us to say what we understand, that no endeavour of this kind will influence any man who is at present here."

People who judge the decisions of judges should study the facts first, because every rule of law was stated in relation to the facts of the particular case. It was by application to the facts that the rule was to be justified or condemned. The Master of the Rolls said that a criminal who had been sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment, he had been described by the governor of Hull prison as a "total subversive" and a "dedicated trouble-maker". He was the very man to qualify for entry to a newly-formed "control unit".

The control unit was found not to have been a success. It was closed. That gave the dedicated trouble-maker a most opportune time to make further trouble. He made complaints against the Home Office and the Prison Service. The

Retirement tributes to Lord Justice Buckley

A crowded court bid farewell to Lord Justice Buckley on his 75th birthday, after 21 years on the Bench and over half a century in the law.

Mr John Mills, QC, in a tribute on behalf of the senior Chancery Bar, said that all members of the Bar wished to congratulate Lord Justice Buckley on his long and distinguished career and to express appreciation for his wisdom, fairness, patience and courtesy. They wished him well in all his future endeavours, which all good judges had, but Lord Justice Buckley had one distinctive quality as well. He had both grace and elegance displayed in his performance as an advocate, judge and actor. The Bar wished him and his family well in the future.

Mr Peter Taylor, for the junior Bar, wished to thank Lord Justice Buckley for his wisdom and for his judgments which were always delivered in the most felicitous language and which had cast a light in many dark corners of the law. Lord Justice Buckley had been flanked by his brother judges, thanked the Bar for the all too complimentary things which had been said. He was grateful to many members of the Bar in court as well as some old friends among the Chancery masters. He wished to thank the Lord Justice who had supported him in his court during the past 21 years; without it he could not have achieved such success as he had. The performance of a judge depended so much on the ability of the advocates before him to present a case coherently so that a judge could clearly see the issues, the relevant law and the salient facts arrive at a conclusion which was just, even if not approved by a higher court.

The rule that Parliament laid down on the day at which judges should retire was a beneficent rule of and benefit to the public.

His Lordship concluded by thanking his clerk, Mr Murrell, and the two ushers of his court.

Clerk's letter no consent

Attorney General at the relation of Co-operative Retail Services Ltd v Taff-Ely Borough Council and Others

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by Taff-Ely Borough Council and Tesco Stores Ltd from the Court of Appeal (The Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Ormrod and Lord Justice Browne) in April, 1979 (39 P & C R 223).

LORD WILBERFORCE, in a short opinion with which Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Keith of Kinnear and Lord Roskill agreed, said that the Court of Appeal had dealt with every point and argument in a fully satisfactory manner. He saw no advantage in their arguments in his own words.

They had decided that a resolution of the council whereby it had been "recommended" that an application by Tesco for planning permission be granted, and that the planning officer take the necessary steps to "consider" with reference to the council's planning officer, referred to in the resolution, could not amount

National Council for Civil Liberties took them up, and Miss Harman took over the case, which eventually failed. She was a solicitor only for Michael Williams. If and in so far as she acquired information in confidence for the purposes of the action she was not at liberty to use it for the purposes of the NCCCL.

It was a rule of English law that a party to litigation must disclose to the other all his confidential documents relevant to the issue. That was done so that the judge could get at the truth. Miss Harman had taken advantage of that rule. The solicitor for the Home Office had tried to limit discovery, but without success. The Treasury Solicitor, concerned that the documents should not be used for any collateral or ulterior purpose, had sought to prevent the disclosure of the documents. The Home Office had given a certificate that their production would be injurious to the public interest. Production of six had been ordered. They were records of high-level meetings reporting to the Home Secretary, the Minister of State for decision. No doubt until recently they would have been privileged from production. The judge had found that the documents would not be used for any purpose other than the case in hand, an undertaking of which she was well aware.

There was also a small bundle of documents in respect of which the Home Secretary had given a certificate that their production would be injurious to the public interest. Production of six had been ordered. They were records of high-level meetings reporting to the Home Secretary, the Minister of State for decision. No doubt until recently they would have been privileged from production. The judge had found that the documents would not be used for any purpose other than the case in hand, an undertaking of which she was well aware.

Miss Harman selected 800 pages for the trial. She said that all the documents were read out in open court for the plaintiff. She had not identified those parts. A judge had heard the evidence. Harman had allowed Mr David Leigh, a Guardian reporter to have access to all the documents in the two bundles.

The question was in what capacity Miss Harman had acted in allowing the reporter to have access to the documents. She said she herself, but she certainly led him to believe that she was acting as solicitor for the NCCCL. The judge had found that she was acting as solicitor for the NCCCL. The judge had found that she was acting as solicitor for the NCCCL. The judge had found that she was acting as solicitor for the NCCCL.

Mr Price had said that the report was not a "control unit". He said that "the documents were released in the NCCCL by a court order". The reporter had said that "the documents were released in the NCCCL by a court order". The reporter had said that "the documents were released in the NCCCL by a court order".

But if so, the Times reporter got it wrong also, for The Times said: "The Home Office unsuccessfully resisted the papers". "Quite apart from the case", Miss Harriet Harman, NCCCL's legal officer, was attributed with a stone ruling when the court said it was in the public interest for us to have those papers."

It was all very wrong for Miss Harman to disclose the statements made by reporters, but his Lordship drew the inference that she led them to believe that she on behalf of the NCCCL had obtained disclosure of those documents, that it was a legal milestone on disclosure, that it was "the public interest" for the NCCCL to have them and that the NCCCL could use them "as a case study as to how such high-level policy is arrived at".

If that was the right inference Miss Harman was under a grave misapprehension. She treated herself as having the right to use the NCCCL whereas she was bringing it for Michael Williams. She was being paid by the legal aid fund. The documents were disclosed to her as solicitor for Michael Williams not as solicitor for the NCCCL. She ought to have confined the use of the documents to him and his action and not to have handed them over from herself as his solicitor to use as solicitor for the NCCCL.

Her disclaimer of the papers "Quite apart from the case", Miss Harriet Harman, NCCCL's legal officer, was attributed with a stone ruling when the court said it was in the public interest for us to have those papers."

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His Lordship could not accede to that argument. It was one of the fundamental rights that every one had a right to privacy, included in which was a right to respect for his confidential documents. That could be overridden in the interests of justice. It had been so overridden in the present case when the court ordered the disclosure of the documents to Michael Williams so that justice might be done in the action he had brought.

The overriding meant that the documents could be read in open court to the judge who had to try the case, that those present could listen, that the reporters could take down what was said and could make from their notes a fair and accurate report of the

proceedings. But nothing more. It did not mean that there could be any further use of the confidential documents or any dissemination of their contents without the consent of the owner.

It was of no use to plead the freedom of the press. That freedom was itself subject to restriction. The press was not free to publish confidential documents without the consent of the owner, save when the interest of the owner in keeping them confidential was outweighed by the public interest in having the highly confidential documents in the present case made public. It was in the public interest that they should remain confidential. It was in the public interest that they should remain confidential. It was in the public interest that they should remain confidential.

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For that use Miss Harman had been responsible. It had been a gross breach of the undertaking which she had implicitly given to the court and affirmed in writing to the Treasury Solicitor. That undertaking was to use the documents solely for the purpose of the action of Michael Williams against the Home Office. Instead, she had used them for the purposes of the organisation, the National Council for Civil Liberties, and that organisation had made them available for use by a journalist and a Guardian reporter.

When ministers and high civil servants were forming important governmental policy their discussions and memoranda should be treated as highly confidential. No court should order the disclosure of those documents to outsiders even in the interests of justice. Under the most stringent safeguards against abuse, the danger of disclosure was that critics of one political colour or another would use the confidential information so as to seek changes in governmental policy, or to condemn it.

The present case it had been thought that the implied undertaking provided a sufficient safeguard against abuse. Unfortunately events had proved otherwise. The disclosure of the documents had been abused by Miss Harman. Her conduct was not an extreme or trivial one. It was a serious contempt of court by a solicitor of the NCCCL. It was a serious contempt of court by a solicitor of the NCCCL. It was a serious contempt of court by a solicitor of the NCCCL.

The appeal should be dismissed. LORD JUSTICE TEMPLEMAN said that the question raised on the appeal was whether the undertaking by a litigant not to use his opponent's documents for the purposes of the action in which they were revealed ceased to bind the litigant if, and as soon as, he used the documents for the purposes of a document disclosed in open court.

It was said that the undertaking ceased to apply to every word which was spoken aloud in court and which consisted of a direct quotation from a document disclosed in open court. The mission was sought to be justified by three alternative, but cumulative, reasons, first, on ideological grounds, secondly on grounds of convenience, and thirdly on grounds of public interest.

The ideological ground was based on the undoubted principle that a cardinal rule of the administration of justice that trials should be held in public. Proceedings in open court were the only way in which justice could be done and seen to be done and that the public might ponder whether justice had in fact been done. Anyone could attend and memorize notes and obtain transcripts of proceedings if any were available. Therefore, it was said, a litigant was freed from his undertaking with regard to the use of his opponent's documents once they had been quoted in open court. It was suggested that a litigant was under a duty to make freely available documents or copies.

If public interest did not require the parties to make their documents freely available to the public for the purposes of the action, the rule that court proceedings must be held in public should not be applied for purposes which had nothing to do with the administration of justice.

The critical ground was based on the fact that the contents of any document quoted in open court might be obtained by personal attendance or by means of a transcript. A litigant was given a powerful weapon to invade privacy in the interests of justice. He should not be free to use that weapon himself for any other purpose.

The ground of convenience was limited to journalists and reporters. It was suggested that in the interests of ensuring that accurate information was available to enable them to comment, a litigant should be entitled to close his own and his opponent's documents. If permission to use a document was conceded, had to be obtained by the party who owned the document. The appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE DUNN, concurring, said that if, after documents had been read out in open court, the client to whom they had been disclosed or his solicitor were free to make such use of them as he pleased, the public would soon lose the confidence in the administration of justice, and the process of discovery, an essential aid to civil proceedings in this country, would be likely to fall into disrepute and become more difficult and less effective. Parties would have a strong disinclination to disclose their own documents.

None of that affected the right of the public, including the press, if they were sufficiently interested, to take notes of documents read out in court or to buy a transcript. But the party to whom they were disclosed and his solicitor, in return for their special right to the disclosure of the documents, had a corresponding obligation not to use them at any time except for the purposes of the action.

The appeal was dismissed. Solicitors: Selfert, Sedley & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

In *Thudate v Thudate* (February 5), junior counsel for the wife was Mr John Dixon.

LEGAL NOTICES

In the Matter of CANADIAN PACIFIC LIMITED and the Notice of this COMPANIES ACT 1948.
Notice is hereby given that the CHARTERS of the above-named Company, which is being VOLUNTARILY WOUND UP, are required, on or before the 28th day of February 1981, to be submitted to the Liquidator, Mr. J. F. POWELL, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4, for his signature and seal, and that the names and addresses of the shareholders of the Company, as at the date of the winding up, shall be specified in such notice, and that the names and addresses of the shareholders of the Company, as at the date of the winding up, shall be specified in such notice, and that the names and addresses of the shareholders of the Company, as at the date of the winding up, shall be specified in such notice.

Dated this 30th day of January, 1981.
JOHN F. POWELL, Liquidator.

In the Matter of FALCON INDUSTRIES LIMITED and the Notice of this COMPANIES ACT 1948.
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In the Matter of STINCHSON HARDY & CO (HOLDINGS) LIMITED and the Notice of this COMPANIES ACT 1948.
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LEGAL NOTICES

No. 005055 of 1980
In the High Court of Justice Chancery Division, in the Matter of the CHARTERS of the above-named Company, which is being VOLUNTARILY WOUND UP, are required, on or before the 28th day of February 1981, to be submitted to the Liquidator, Mr. J. F. POWELL, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4, for his signature and seal, and that the names and addresses of the shareholders of the Company, as at the date of the winding up, shall be specified in such notice, and that the names and addresses of the shareholders of the Company, as at the date of the winding up, shall be specified in such notice, and that the names and addresses of the shareholders of the Company, as at the date of the winding up, shall be specified in such notice.

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Saturday Review

The Reverend Maturin and Mr Melmoth

by Richard Holmes



The Reverend Charles Robert Maturin

When Oscar Wilde was released from Reading Gaol in 1897, you will recall that he fled to France under a rather remarkable pseudonym—Monsieur Sebastian Melmoth. His travel bags were initiated S.M., and his letters and melodious telegrams were signed "Melmoth". From the Hotel d'Alsace, Paris, he wrote to a friend explaining: "You asked me about 'Melmoth'... to prevent the postman having fits I sometimes have my letters inscribed with the name of a curious novel by my great-uncle, Maturin: a novel that was part of the romantic revival of the early century, and though imperfect, a pioneer: it is still read in France and Germany; Bentley republished it (in England) some years ago. I laugh at it, but it thrilled Europe..."

Exactly why poor Oscar should have hit upon this lugubrious title remains to be seen. For the moment it is sufficient to remember that he chose it in prison, and that he carried it with him into exile and—quite soon—into death.

Wilde's grand-uncle (on his mother's side) was the Reverend Charles Robert Maturin, an eccentric Irish curate of St Peter's, Dublin. In 1820, at the age of forty, the Reverend Maturin startled his parishioners by publishing the extraordinary piece of Gothic fiction known as *Melmoth the Wanderer: A Tale*. Despite its modest subtitle, it ran to four substantial volumes, and was constructed in a most intricate, not to say devious manner, from a whole series of interlocking stories, each one nesting inside the other on the principle of a set of Chinese boxes or Russian dolls.

It was rumoured to be replete with all the terrors of the genre—comfortably outdoing the haunted castles of Horace Walpole, the fiendish monasteries of Monk Lewis, and the vapouring heroines of Mary Shelley. Naturally, it was much mocked by the English reviewers of the day who regarded Gothic Horror as irretrievably down-market. Croker growled in the *Quarterly*: "Mr Maturin has contrived, by a curious infatuation, to unite in this work all the worst peculiarities of the worst modern novels. Compared with it, Lady Morgan [author of *The Wild Irish Girl*] is almost intelligible—*The Monk*, decent—*The Vampire*, amiable—and *Frankenstein*, natural."

No doubt because of this, the novel leapt into a second edition, and was adapted for the stage, and was shortly translated into French (twice, in 1822), and later German and Spanish. Its European popularity has never waned since, and a Russian translation in a heavy black cover like a Bible, appeared only four years ago.

Much more surprising, however, it became a *cause célèbre* among the leading Romantic and Symbolist writers in France. Baudelaire glorified it in *L'Élixir de longue vie*, and even wrote a satirical sequence, *Melmoth Reconcilié* (1835). Admiring references and epigraphs can be found in the works of Hugo, Baudelaire, Gautier, Eugène Sue, Villiers de l'Isle-Adam, and La Fontaine. Melmoth pinches several morbid scenes.

Baudelaire, writing *On My Contemporaries* (1865), observed majestically: "Beethoven began to stir up those worlds of melancholy and apprehension, like thunderclouds on the inner horizon of man. Maturin in the novel, Byron in poetry, Poe in the analytical romance—all admirably expressed the blasphemous element in human passion. They cast splendid, dazzling shafts of light on the hidden Lucifer figure who is enthroned deep in every human heart. I wish to suggest by this that modern art is essentially demonic in tendency."

This places the Reverend Maturin in unexpectedly influential company. Nor was Baudelaire referring to conventional, cardboard "demons". Certainly, the hero of *Melmoth* is an closer inspection no ordinary figure. In fact, apart from a certain contract made with the powers of darkness, he seems to have been a rather studious and distinguished Anglo-Irish gentleman of the 17th century. "There was nothing remarkable in his figure," said one in the novel who had met him on his travels in Madrid (and lived to tell the tale). His demeanour was quiet, his dress sober, he did not carry a sword. Only there was something about his expression—"the eyes particularly"—which could not fail to appal.

"Accustomed to look on and converse with all things revolving to nature and to man—for ever exploring the madhouse, the jail, or the Inquisition, the den of famine, the dungeon of crime, or the death-bed of despair—his eyes had acquired a light and language of their own—a light that none could gaze on, and a language that few dare understand."

Who was Mr Melmoth, that he frequented such grim institutions and dark secret places of the heart? He was a man, whatever else he might be, on a lifelong—more than lifelong—pilgrimage. What he sought was a single victim.

Someone whose life was so terrible, so tormented, so trapped, that as an act of rational choice—an act of madness, or delirium, was not valid—they would agree to change places with him. In this bargain they would purchase their freedom in exchange for "an unutterable condition", which Melmoth proposed.

It is typical of Maturin that in the course of this long novel we never learn precisely what this "unutterable condition" is. But it becomes clear that Melmoth has sold his soul in exchange for certain kinds of physical and intellectual gifts, and an extension of his natural life for a term of 150 years. The one way he can escape from final payment on this transaction, is to transfer the deal to another human being before his time is up. It is a kind of diabolic mortgage. Hence Melmoth's ghastly search among the suffering and oppressed.

The legend of the Satanic pact, is, of course, one of the most venerable in European folklore and literature. The figures of Cain, Dr Faustus, Abasco, the Wandering Jew, all express it; and Marlowe, Goethe, Byron, Coleridge, and Thomas Mann have based masterpieces on it. It also had wide popular currency in English thriller writing of the 19th century—William Godwin's *St Leon* (1789), Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, and M. R. James's *Casting the Runes* are notable variations.

But Maturin's originality lay in transferring attention from the mythology of the horrendous pact, to the human psychology of those tempted to it. What kind of despair could endanger them? The Tempter, Melmoth, is human. Apart from its outer frame-story, the novel is very little concerned with supernatural stage business. It is fundamentally, a study in oppression—particularly the oppression of institutions and customs—explored in various convenient Gothic forms.

There are six main tales, though only a flow-chart could show how they follow, drop through, open out, and close back round each other. Like some mad Emperor's mechanical puzzle. The first concerns Stanton, an Englishman lured into a lunatic asylum; the second, Moncada, a young Spaniard trapped in a monastery and then an Inquisition prison; the third, Immaele, an "Indian" maiden marooned on a palm-tree island; the fourth, Isadora, a Spanish debutante doomed to an arranged marriage; the fifth, the Walbergs, a loving German Protestant family torn apart by sudden poverty and unemployment; and the sixth, Elinor and John Sandall, two Shropshire lovers ruined by a greedy mother. Each one also contains several sub-tales and anecdotes. But every one of them concerns some sort of imprisonment of the body or the spirit. Even when the men play chess in Maturin, they break off leaving the Queen en prise.

The pains which most of these intended victims undergo are mental rather than physical, though they can reach forms of torment where the borderline is blurred in hallucination passage. Here, in a celebrated scene, the young monk Moncada suffers a nightmare on the eve of his interrogation by the Spanish Inquisition:

"The next moment I was chained to my chair again—the fires were lit, the bells rang out, the lanterns were swung—my feet were scorched to a cinder—my muscles cracked, my blood and marrow hissed, my flesh consumed like-shrinking leather—the bones of my legs hung two black withering and nerveless stalks in the ascending blaze—my head was crowned with fire—my head was a ball of molten metal—my eyes flashed and melted in their sockets—I opened my mouth, it was closed—I closed it, the fire was within—and still the bells rung on, and the crowd shouted, and the king and queen, and all the nobility and we burned and burned!"

Strikingly horrible as this passage is (and pointing, in its rhythms, especially, towards Edgar Allan Poe), it remains within the hyperbolic conventions of eighteenth-century Gothicism, only a breath away from ludicrous laughter. Indeed it is in this suppressed laughter, on the reader's part, that such of its monstrous power probably comes. Not for nothing Maturin was dubbed "the Fuseli of novels."

Who was the obscure Irish curate who created Melmoth and his labyrinth of victims? How did he become such an epicure of terror and oppression? Charles Robert Maturin was no clerical jargonist or insouciant priest; and he lived quietly enough through the upheavals of the French Revolution and the great bloody battles of the Irish rebellion in Dublin, under Wolfe Tone and Emmet. Yet these things left their inner mark, and later in life he claimed that a Huguenot ancestor had spent 26 years in the Bastille.

Born in 1780, the youngest son of a prosperous Irish civil servant, Maturin graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, and took Holy Orders in the Protestant Church. His first curacy was at the remote country town of Loughrea, in Galway, and here he came in touch with the profound superstition and misery of the local people. By the age of 24, however, he had been appointed as one of the curates of St Peter's, living in the fashionable quarter of St Stephen's Green in Dublin, with a stipend of some £80 per annum. He was a youthful, elegant figure—his portrait shows something of a clerical dandy, with open shirt and graceful fingers—and he quickly married his childhood sweetheart, Henrietta Kingsbury, who had musical talents and useful connections with the Irish Episcopacy.

But Maturin was disappointed in his hopes of early preferment. His seniors found him too colourful and unstable: a love of dancing, amateur theatricals, and mischievous mimicry, alternated with strange fits of melancholy and distraction. He also revealed an inconvenient literary bent—publishing in rapid succession a series of garish romances: *The Fatal Revenge* in 1807, *The Wild Irish Boy* in 1808, and *The Millionaire's Chief* in 1812. This was not the curriculum vitae of a future Bishop.

Maturin's Preface to the latter work is revealing of his situation as he saw it at the age of 32: "If I possess any talent, it is that of darkening the gloomy, and deepening the sad; of painting life in the extremes, and representing the struggles of passion when the soul trembles on the verge of the unlawful and the unallowed. In the following pages I have tried to apply these to the scenes of actual life; and I have chosen my own country for the scene, because I believe it is the only country on earth where, from the strange existing opposition of religion, politics, and manners, the extremes

of refinement and barbarism are united, and the most wild and incredible situations of romantic story are hourly passing before modern eyes. In my first work I attempted to explore the ground forbidden to man; the sources of visionary terror; the formless and the void; in my present I have tried the equally obscure recesses of the human heart. If I fail in both, I shall—write again."

Maturin's sense of being trapped in Ireland, his clerical career frustrated and literary recognition remote, was now compounded by financial crises. His father was sacked from his senior position in the Dublin Post Office on an unexplained charge of malfeasance; and a distant relative, possibly a rascally cousin, inveigled Maturin into going security on a business that promptly went bankrupt. Flung into debt, and with a household now including nine dependents and his difficult old father, Maturin desperately took on private pupils, and wrote away more furiously than ever. The autobiographical basis of one of Melmoth's tales—the Walbergs family—was already taking shape.

Then in 1816, Maturin's fortunes dramatically changed. He had decided to try his luck with a stage melodrama, and the resulting script—*Bertram, or the Castle of St Aldobrand*—reached the notice of Walter Scott, who passed it on with amused recommendation to the Dublin Theatre Committee. A single stage-direction catches the flavour of the piece: "The Rocks—The Sea—A Storm—The Convent illuminated in the background—A group of Monks on the Rocks with Torches—A Vessel in Distress."

To Maturin's amazement, the play was immediately successful. It was mounted in May, 1816, with

Kean in the star role. Byron sent him 50 guineas; John Murray bought the book copyright for £350; and box office receipts earned him more than £500. Maturin visited London (the only time in his life he ever left Ireland), was applauded at Drury Lane, and did a breathless round of the literary drawing rooms. He was ecstatic! For a brief, brief moment he was famous, and what is more, free.

Back in Dublin he lived in a dreamlike whirl. He was the hero of his own household. He bought Turkish carpets, ornate mahogany tables, silk wall papers, elaborate lusters, and had his parlour expensively paneled with painted boiseries depicting the scenes from his novels. He became a habitué of Lady Morgan's Dublin salon, and indulged his passion for dancing "with young persons" even joining a racy Gavotte Society that met three mornings a week. (There are some nasty dancing metaphors in *Melmoth*.)

"His character, habits and opinions seemed to undergo a total alteration," a friend later wrote. "He returned to Ireland, gave up his tuition, indulged in the intoxications of society, and became a man of fashion, living upon the 'fame of his genius.' He was 36."

At this time he was said to sit composing amid his own house parties, with a red patch pasted on his forehead to indicate that he was in the throes of creation. Subsequently that patch must have come to seem like the mark of Cain.

Maturin's time of triumph was bitterly short—less than a year. His subsequent melodramas—*Manuel* (1817) and *Fredolfo* (1819)—flopped hopelessly at Drury Lane and Covent Garden. Coleridge wrote a destructive review of his work, which he unkindly republished in the *Biographia Literaria*. A scheme of Byron's, to make over the royalties from his poems, fell through because of Murray's

objections ("It could be in no respect different to you—whether I paid it to a whore or a hospital—or assisted a man of talent in distress," complained Milford)—and the three intended beneficiaries, Maturin, Godwin, and ironically Coleridge, received nothing.

Maturin's old debts absorbed all his remaining royalties. He was soon writing to Murray: "There is not a shilling I have made by *Bertram* that has not been expended to pay the debts of a scoundrel for whom I had the misfortune to go security, so here I am with scarce a pound in my pocket, smothering at congratulations on having made a fortune." One catches the bitter lit of his voice.

By 1817, the complaints had become more pathetic. "Let me beg you to write to me. I cannot describe to you the effect of an English letter on my spirits; it is like the wind to an Aeolian harp. I cannot produce a note without it. Give me advice, abuse, news, anything or nothing (if it were possible that you could write nothing), but write!"

For Maturin the iron door of circumstance had changed shut once more, and this time forever. "There is no room for Irishmen in England," he groaned.

"It was in this dark mood that he began to scrawl down the first wild tales that turned into the maze of Melmoth's wanderings across Europe in search of salvation. Much of his adolescent reading from the Arabian Nights and Glanville's *History of Witchcraft*, to Percy and Ossian and La Religieuse of Diderot, swam back into his mind; so too did personal memories of the Dublin street riots, the English suppressions, and the deathbed visions of his country parishioners. (Many footnotes in *Melmoth* attest to these). But the master-idea, said Maturin, came to him during the course of a late Sunday evening's sermon at St Peter's in 1817.

He was speaking gloomily of the infinite mercy of God, and

looking down at his little flock amid the flickering candle-light, he suddenly exclaimed: "At this moment is there one of us present, however we may have departed from the Lord, disobeyed his will, and disregarded his word—is there one of us who would, at this moment, accept all that man could bestow, or earth afford, to resign the hope of his salvation? No, there is not one—not such a fool on earth, were the enemy of mankind to traverse it with the offer!"

A silence fell in the church, the wind howled, and as the French say an angel—or something worse—walked overhead. Maturin testifies that in that silence, he reflected on his own lot, and somewhere a pair of balding eyes first opened their lurid lights, and Melmoth was born—or reborn—and began walking on the wild cliffs of county Wicklow. The passage can still be read in his published *Sermons* (1819).

While he wrote *Melmoth*, Maturin seems to have become a ghost of his former self. He had gone bald. The expensive furnishings of his house in York Street were progressively flung off, and even the stone flagged corridors left uncarpeted.

He no longer composed in the cheerful parlour, but took long solitary afternoon walks and returned after dark to shut himself up in his study to write. As he worked, he seemed to withdraw into some kind of bleak inner world, his quill pen moving with sinister speed as if under dictation. A Dublin friend recalled of this time:—

"I have remained with him repeatedly, looking over some of his loose manuscripts, till three in the morning, while he was composing his wild romance of *Melmoth*. Brandy and water supplied to him the excitement that opium yields to others; but it had no intoxicating effect on him; his action was, if possible, more strange, and indeed terrible to witness. His mind travelling in the dark regions of romance, seemed altogether to have deserted his body, and left behind a mere physical organism; his long pale face acquired the appearance of a cast taken from the face of a dead body; and his large prominent eyes took a glassy look; so that when, at the witching hour, he suddenly, without speaking raised himself, and extended a thin and bony hand, to grasp the silver branch with which he lighted me down stairs, I have often started, and gazed on him as a spectral illusion of his own creation."

No doubt this description has gained a certain blarney in the retelling. Yet its correspondences oddly with the sensation of blind, headlong speed in Maturin's narrative, which makes it so readable, and prompted the *New Monthly Review* critic of 1821 to observe: "Maturin will ransack the forgotten records of crime, or the dusty museums of natural history, to discover a new horror. He is a passionate connoisseur in agony. His taste for strong emotion evidently hurries him on almost without the concurrence of the will." A hundred years later, André Breton recognized in it the *écriture automatique* of Surrealism.

Maturin's publisher—now Constable of Edinburgh—reacted more frostily. Why did the chaotic instalments of manuscript have no pagination? Where were the logical links between the tales? What was the title to be? How could a reader ever reach the end without chapter summaries? And anyway, why was it so late?

In retrospect, it is clear that the asymmetrical, labyrinthine structure of the tales is one of the main sources of their weird power. The further the reader enters in, the more he is overpowered by a nightmare sense of suffocation and apprehension. Yet all the time the narrative moves at relentless pace. It is like a prisoner rushing to escape through a Piranesi-style series of bifurcating, subterranean leads, which only appear to lead him deeper and deeper underground. At each twist or intersection, sooner or later, we glimpse the figure of Melmoth, lurking from the shadows, grimly proposing his bargain. The final effort may even strike the modern reader with an uncanny sense of premonition—here already is something like the dark, closed universe of Kafka's *Castle* or Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago*.

In the most avowedly romantic of the tales, the story of the innocent Indian maiden Immaele, or her beautiful desert island, Melmoth himself is her demon lover. He tries deviously to corrupt her mind with distorted accounts of mainland civilization, which he shows her—in a scene surely predestined for the stage—through a powerful telescope. Immaele, the figure who comes closest to redeeming Melmoth by falling in love with him. She is a potential Ariadne. He is the first human being she has ever seen ("the daughter of a palm tree"), and she unravels his sophistries with innocent guile. Through her we realize the limitations of Melmoth's satanically purchased powers, and the paradoxical truth that it is he who is more deeply imprisoned than all his intended victims. Many of their dialogues, full of Rousseauesque naïvetés, have a quaint poetic charm.

"The tempter was departing gloomily, when he saw tea start from the bright eyes of Immaele, and caught a wild and dark omen from the innocent grief. And you were Immaele?" "Yes," said the beautiful being, "I always was when I see the sun set clouds; and will you, the son of my heart, set in darkness too? and will you not again? will you not? and will the graceful confidence of innocence, she pressed her delicious lips to his hand as she spoke. 'Will you not?'"

In the end Melmoth simply cannot bring himself to seduce her, and he bitterly abandons her to the lonely island of peacocks and blossoms, as shadow passes over the moon. But the idyll is brief, and the labyrinth here doubles back with particular cruelty. Unde the name of Isadora, Immaele turns up again in Madrid, rescued, educated and refined. She is swiftly carried away seduced and married again her parents will, and ends her days in yet another dungeon with a dead child in her arm. There is no escape for anyone.

Yet Melmoth is never successful in his temptations. One of his victims finally goes away and by the end of the novel it is Melmoth himself, returned after 150 years to the remote ancestral house on the coast of Wicklow, who is at last called to account. A touch of the Irish charm does not guard him, though. His hair was as white as snow, mouth had fallen in, the muscles of his face were rigid and withered—he was the image of hoary decrepitude. He started himself the impression which appearance visibly made on intruders. "You see what I feel," he exclaimed, "the then is come, I am summoned and I must obey the summons—my master has other work for me! When a man has lived a long time, he must come towards the sun—look up, perhaps you may think of a spirit condemned to guide a blazing and erratic orb!"

Maturin leaves open the unsettling possibility, that Melmoth might continue to rove the world, "seeking for whom might devour", in centuries come—"should the few terms of his existence be renewed."

Maturin eventually received £500 from Constable for overdue manuscript, but terms of his own contract were never renewed. A mere five years after the publication of his masterpiece, he died in gloom and genteel poverty aged forty-four. Fame never reached him properly. When Walter Scott, the faithful of his literary spongers, journeyed to Dublin order to collect materials for a biography, he found that most of Maturin's private papers had been destroyed by his family.

Maturin had written that was "one who has little known little of life but labours distress and difficulty, and has his own private life a gloom of his own pages for the shade of obscurity and a fortune under which his existence has been wasted." Melmoth he added: "Let the who smile at me, ask the selves whether they have been indebted most to imagination reality for all they have enjoyed—if indeed they have enjoyed anything."

Despite its Gothicism, and of the deepest inspiration *Melmoth the Wanderer* is a foundly and timeless Irish draws on images of age, subjection and persecution, lights them with a faint gleam, and extends them to touches upon the spiritual nature of captivity—social, gnostic, political—in a way has often been more accessible to the European than English mind. Perhaps this was one of the reasons Wilde, with a kind of pious gallantry, adopted grand-uncle's strange career when he went into sad exile France.

How oddly delighted Reverend Maturin would have been, if he had lived even to sign a name to the legend that Charles Baudelaire that other spirit priest proposed to translate *Melmoth* unabridged into French and how moved he might have been to read the following sage from his "Poème du châtiment" (1838):

"Let us remember Melmoth that admirable emblem of suffering lies in disproportion between marvellous faculties, acquired instantly by a satanic pact, the everyday world in which as a creature of God, he condemned to live. And of those whom he wishes to seduce consent to purchase, those same conditions, his rible privilege. In effect, man who does not accept conditions of life, sells own soul."

Yet one stranger speculation remains. If Melmoth's contract was renewed—where is he now?

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Paperbacks

Two's Company

The Correspondence between Richard Strauss and Hugo von Hofmannsthal (Cambridge 4.95)

It was in pursuit of a really operatic subject, a vision to cap the Ossa of his Germanic, that Richard Strauss wrote to the Austrian writer Hugo von Hofmannsthal, early in 1906, asking permission to set Hofmannsthal's play *Elektra* to music. The result, a collaboration proved so congenial that the two authors continued to work together in operas of less extravagant cast, beginning indeed with that apostrophe to kindly human sentiment *Der Rosenkavalier*, a work whose instant and durable success they never surpassed.

Strauss, keen on popular acclaim, would gladly have accepted something like a sequel. His taste in operatic subject-matter was for the picturesque, romantic, late-chivalric, what Bernard Shaw dubbed "Sardoodledum", after the author of *Tosca* and *L'elisir d'amour*. He longed to become the Offenbach of the Twentieth Century. Hofmannsthal, however, was a more serious-minded idealist and an artistic taste of scrupulous refinement, reflected in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* above all, but also in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, which makes a poignant contrast to the comic and farcical operas Strauss proposed a perfectly serious drama about communication through misunderstanding, and even *Arabella*, an entertainment on the theme of human responsibility.

Their collaboration, among the most famous in the history of opera, was also unique because it was conducted almost entirely through the public postal service. Hofmannsthal, a musician, but despised him as a social companion and man of the world, and took every precaution to meet him as seldom as possible. The value of their correspondence in matters artistic, biographical, psychological, and historical, to go no further—was apparent during the 1920s when some of their letters, heavily edited, were published (in English translation as well as the original German), still more in 1951 when a fairly comprehensive collection emerged. This much more revealing edition was translated into English in 1961, Strauss's letters by Edward Jears, Hofmannsthal's by his biographer Hans Hagemann; it now reappears under another imprint, and for the first time in paperback form, as printed as it stood, without additions, corrections or updating—no doubt because Hagemann has died.

The conflict of personalities nicely, not obtrusively conveyed in the styles of the two translators. In his preface, Edward Sackville-West compared it to "a Siamese cat working out a modus vivendi with a Labrador", but even he was unfortunate reader allergic to either animal must appreciate how diplomatically poet and composer laboured to influence one another, and how completely when a special ambition was frustrated. Students of their joint operas may continue to discover new insights into the contents and their implications. The republication will be the more valuable because the more of the operas are regularly staged than in 1961. *Die Ägyptische Helena* at last available on record, *Intermezzo* (not by Hofmannsthal but much discussed in the correspondence) at Glyndebourne, *Arabella* in both London opera-houses; perhaps even *The Legend of Joseph* may be planned for revival, who knows?

William Mann

A gentle formula

Irish Lives: Michael Collins, by Leon O'Brien; Sean O'Casey, by Hugh Hunt; C. S. Parnell, by Paul Bew; James Craig, by Patrick Buckland; James Joyce, by Peter Costello; Emma De Valera, by T. T. Dwyer. (Gill & Macmillan, £2.50 each)

A special curse seems to strike the authors of biographies that are produced in series. Restricted to a severe word count by their editors and conscious of their work is intended to be a kind of primer in its subject, the writers fall back on a kind of dead-pan, schoolboy style of prose, a schoolboy rhetoric that used to afflict us in classrooms on wet Wednesday afternoons.

by a deep affection for his sister... And too many of the books in this series follow the same gentle formula. One has the suspicion, too, that the series is indeed intended for schools. Why else would Katherine O'Shea's affair with Parnell occupy so few pages? (and was Parnell really a considerable catch for her, as Dr Bew coyly suggests?)

Mr Costello's *Life of Joyce* is by far the most sensitive of the six volumes. He does not pretend, as Joyce's family tried to, that she exiled writer was in any way conventional in his life. There is a brief, sketchy portrait of Martha Fleischmann, Joyce's mistress in Zurich, and no lack of serious literary criticism. The life of Northern Ireland's first prime minister is probably the most valuable of the books Dr Buckland has in earlier works shown that he has a sneaking respect for Craig although he sometimes confuses the old man's cunning for genuine political skill. He acknowledges the lengths to which Craig went to pacify the Orange Order but curiously underestimates the importance of his demand for British government arms contracts in the months before the Second World War.

Professor Dwyer fully understands the significance of the war in his biography of De Valera although he exaggerates the benevolence of Irish neutrality. And why does he virtually ignore Frank Aiken, the Republican pillar of Dev's neutrality policy?

It is quite fortuitous that Gill and Macmillan, a Dublin publishing house that is still partly a family firm, should have produced these books at a time when television interest in Irish history is exploding on British and Irish screens. But they are an excellent companion to the television series and would indeed make useful schoolbooks. We are promised further biographies of Shaw, Lemass, Griffith, W. T. Cosgrave and others—but why no women?

Robert Fisk

Bleep bleep hooray

The Restaurant at the End of the Universe by Douglas Adams (Pan, 95p)

Hot Black Desiato has made so much money out of ear-shattering plutonium rock music that he is having to spend a year dead for tax reasons. Gargary is a man whose mind and body have fused to live apart on the grounds of incompatibility. And here again, bleep bleep hooray, is Marvin the Paranoid Android robot, who manages to look permanently jocular, as far as it is possible for something with a totally metal face to show self-pity.

In short, and indeed in proximity, chums, this is the sequel to *The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, which has attracted more than a million copies, mostly impervious to the mechanical charms of science fiction. A summary of the plot would read like case notes of a nervous breakdown. Here are further adventures of Ford Prefect, his companion with odd numbers of heads in the highways and byways of the Universe. It is not the silence eternal of these infinite spaces that terrifies, but the incessant smart-aleck chatter that more of the nastier plastic things that come out of cornflake packets. Put your analyst on danger money, baby, before you read this.

The restaurant in the title has been projected forward into the future to the exact moment of the end of time, so that the ultimate cabaret is to watch the universe exploding around you, and the skies boiling, before ducking back to your own time, in a space limbo. It is a space opera, and *All That Crossed with Alice* and *Gulliver's Travels*, best read after a Pan Galactic Gargle Blaster slug of the universal hooch, Lynuan Tonick. Swift, satiric, comic, and fun with the trendy mannerisms of our time, from worship of the motor car to jogging, and from the pedantry of committee meetings, Point of Order, Marvin, Chairman, to religious enthusiasm and, engagingly, Sci-Fi itself. All whimsy is the Beeblebrox, and the ark ship in space is full of deep-frozen middle management men sent colonizing another planet for their own planet's good.

The disease infected an unsuspecting public as a programme on Radio 4 two years ago. It works best on radio, that most suggestive of media; but it has since become two books, a play, an LP, and a current television series. The plot, such as it is, is a sequence of episodic disasters and hilarities. Douglas Adams is a master of the Onomastics and Paronomastics of Space. Paradox proliferates. Beautiful monsters have to be rescued from ravaging princesses. And a simple space song follows the familiar theme of boy-meets-girl-being-beneath-a-silver-moon, which then explodes for no adequately explored reason.

The Man who rules the Universe turns out to be a solipsist linguistic philosopher who believes in nobody else, except, thank heavens, his ginger cat. The travellers come to rest on a primitive planet Earth, so becoming their own ancestors. Science fiction I can usually take, or preferably leave. But if this does not make you laugh, que you guys are so unhip, it's a wonder your bums don't fall off.

Philip Howard

Here be Dragons

The Grand Dragon, by Irma Kurtz (Arrow, £1.35)

Whoever wrote the words for the cover of the paperback edition of Irma Kurtz's *The Grand Dragon* has done her a double disservice. "A powerful novel", it says, in large type, under the title. "A book of deceptions of the flesh." Yet the book is not in any obvious sense powerful, being neither grandiose nor dramatic, nor of life. Rather, it is a quietly stylish, understated narrative of contemporary life about being Jewish, about friendship between women, about the challenges of infidelity. Nor is much flesh involved in anything. *The Grand Dragon* is about the deceptions of the mind.

Irma Kurtz has been for many years a journalist, and that is her principal theme: what it is like to be a reporter, to spend weeks on the move writing with pens that bear the name of the current hotel; to look, always, for the helpful visual detail that will transform banality into perception; to face up without complicity to the frigidous chances of interviews.

She handles it all lightly, with an authentic tone, self-aware to the point that she can mock herself, say of her heroine, "I had, she makes her reporter say, roughly, 'no interest in any new place beyond the chance it gave me to collect sights, sounds, an interview and try to forget myself'."

Around this, she has constructed the fabric of a novel. An American in her late thirties, Jewish, single, successful, goes to write a piece about the Ku-Klux-Klan. The reporter, interviewing men and women, growing or bald, middle aged or very fat, loosed lipped, but close mouthed, conveys menace. She is scared but curious. The Jewish faith she has long brooded over has been then she meets that last apostle, Ku-Klux-Klan bigotry: *The Grand Dragon*, a flaxen haired hero whose disgust of all things Jewish is frenzied. But he is better than that: on other matters, he talks the same language as she does. She goes to bed with him.

Irma Kurtz has done that most difficult of things: written a novel that smells strongly of autobiography, where only the extreme improbability is a guarantee of its status as fiction. She is at her best writing of the minor deceptions of life; less convincing when she reaches those regions where imagination is more important than honesty.

Caroline Moorehead

A daughter's story

"I found writing a book very strange because I'd never written one before," said the winner of the Wolfson Literary Award for 1979; "It was like starting with Everest when you haven't climbed the Chilterns."

The prize was for *Clementine Churchill* written by her daughter, Mary Soames, (now in Penguin, at £2.50). It is an enormous book, some 760 pages long and it seems extraordinary that she should have been able to manage so much in the way of research and writing. "Most of the interviewing was with my mother, of course. The book was started 14 years before she died, and she knew I was going to do it. I was able to talk to her a lot about it—she was such a help, and also it gave extra point and zest to our conversations. I used to have a little list of things I wanted to ask her about—three or four letters I'd got that would jog her memory, or were not clear to me, and I'd say to her, after we'd had lunch or coffee or something, 'Mamma, let's have a book conversation' and I'd ask her about specific points. My technical questions, like who lived in Barons Court or at the Larches from where you wrote which was very interesting, and an addition. I didn't write it down at the time, I used to make a note when I got home, I didn't use a tape recorder, and have an absolute black—and I came to the conclusion that it's listening, I stop listening."

"There were great difficulties—I did find working with



The Suffragettes' Memorial, from Wate's Book of London Churchyards—a guide to the old churchyards and burial grounds of the City and Central London by Harvey Hackmann, photographs by Angelo Hornack (Collins, £5).

Bagthorpes and catastrophe

The Bagthorpe Saga: Ordinary Jack; Absolute Zero; Bagthorpes Unlimited, by Helen Cresswell (Puffin Books 85p each)

Mrs Laura Bagthorpe, alias Stella Bright, writes a column for a monthly journal. It is not, as you might expect from the pseudonym, on horoscopes but on Readers' Problems, and there's a running joke in "The Bagthorpe Saga" that she would be better employed outside her Agony sanctum, sorting out the chaos in her own family (two boys, two girls, two grandmothers and a temperamental husband). For although Helen Cresswell assures us that most of these characters are geniuses, and although she goes on *ad nauseam* about the Strings to their Bows—anything from tennis to Voltaire—Bagthorpe pere shoots closer to the mark when he says gloomily "We emerge as buffoons".

Too mettlesome in their quest for superiority, the Bagthorpes invite catastrophe. Grandma is apprehended for wanting to cheat at Bingo; maggot-breeding is undertaken, with dire results; and Mr Henry Bagthorpe, a writer of short stories, is persecuted and is

to be found frequently asserting a desire to resign from the human race. If that's not enough then there's always the four-year-old cousin, Daisy Parker (of The Knoll), who demonstrates much precocity in pyromania, hydrophobia and writing on walls. Only in rare moments of harmony and repose, as when the family unite to repel the dreadful Mr Sugden, who lays claim to the dog dog Zero, and only in the treatment of Zero himself and of "Ordinary Jack"—the most genius youngest son—does the Saga generate sufficient contrast to offset its author's relentless pursuit of disaster.

Miss Cresswell has also been accused in some quarters of elitism in this saga. Quite apart from their classy Bow Strings, the Bagthorpes have a rural mansion, an uncle who plays the stockmarket, and a daily Mrs Fosdyke, who is the butt of jokes impugning the dignity of Working Folk. The truth is, though, that the books get more and more interesting as they go on. The standard device of popular music-hall farce: curdled pies, one-dimensional characterisation and the clanging up of expected epithets dead on cue. It will be interesting to see how far the long constructed, episodic narrative has been tailored to the demands of television serialisation, which is due to begin in March. And I wonder if any bright script-writer has plans for a knockout sitcom bringing back Adams, the voluptuous Danish air pair, who disappeared at the end of Volume One, and featuring dreamy Celia Parker, Daisy's poetic muse. Perhaps Henry Bagthorpe himself might have a go.

Brian Alderson

Heian Lady

The Tale of Genji, by Murasaki Shikibu. Translated and introduced by Edward G. Seidensticker. (Penguin, £5.95).

It's a classic, of course, that everyone has heard of, but few have read. One of the earliest novels, dating from eleventh century Japan, (always a debatable point if you remember *The Golden Ass* and count in the *Odyssey* and *Beowulf*) it is nearly a thousand pages long, and relates the life and death of a hero, Genji, the "shining prince", set in the court life of Heian Japan, which the author knew well, being a court lady herself.

Her real name is unknown—the second half of her name derives from an office held by her father, and the first might as well be a number of things—taken from a leading character in the novel, it also means "purple", the Japanese name for wisteria, and she came from the great Fujiwara family. Edward Seidensticker explains quite a lot of this in his introduction, which also relates the history and provenance of the book.

I love a great thick book, being an omnivorous and speedy reader, but I must confess that I am defeated. I can see the fascination of this extraordinary life, entirely ruled by elaborate conventions and obedience to style. Every garment is minutely described, with comments as to its beauty and suitability. Elaborate notes are written from lover to the loved one, and scrutinised with a hyper-critical eye. Performances on the koto and flute are judged to be keys to the character of the player. Genji, adored by all, has a splendid time collecting a large number of ladies in a fairly determined way, but he has a less good time; having to depend upon the hours and times of his desire, with nothing much else to do. One could, of course, become a nun or throw oneself into the sea.

I did find it extremely disconcerting that few of the leading characters had names. The "Akashi Lady" or the "Rukyo Lady" or even the "Lady with the red nose" were not sufficient to remember quite who they were, if you weren't paying attention, and the habit of mind of a reader of a novel and substituting quotations, as Lord Peter Wimsey has already observed, saves original thought. If you wish to embark on eleventh century Japanese fiction, I recommend first reading Ivan Morris's *The World of the Shining Prince* (Penguin, £2.95), which is a fascinating commentary on the book, and sets it in the social and historical context, which I found most helpful and illuminating. Even so, I failed, around page 500 or so. I recommend it to stronger hearts than mine, and feel that there should be no recourse for me but the nunnery or the sea. However, as one of the author's contemporaries at court wrote *The Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon*, perhaps eleventh century Japan was not quite such a dull place as all that.

Philippa Toomey

Unspoken secrets

Rosmersholm
Royal Exchange,
Manchester

Irving Wardle

A capacity to respond to Rosmersholm is the mark of the true Ibsenite. Either it strikes you as the ultimate refinement of his method, or it appears a stifling labyrinth leading nowhere.

There came a moment towards the end of Casper Wrede's production when somebody said "You'd better know, something happened..." was too often for me. But up to that point, the performance exerts a continuing spell such as I have never before experienced from this play. It is richly nuanced and every nuance counts; every pause is filled. The sensation is that something of complex importance is being said and that you cannot afford to miss a single detail.

The Exchange theatre was designed by a group who first made their names with Ibsen, and is a perfect instrument for this play, capable at once of projecting grand-scale symbolic effects in the outer perimeter, and examining the neurotic action almost in laboratory conditions. Both sides emerge in the first seconds of the show: first with the thunderous roar of the mill-race, and then in the light, rapid exchanges between Rosmersholm and Mrs Helseth (Rachael Thomas) that pack so much of the background and present relationships into a few lines.

This opening also succeeds in introducing the haunted aftermath of Rosmersholm without darkening the atmosphere. A lot is going to come out, and the production vitiates establishments that these people are deeply attached to each other and have a lot to lose. One case in point is the authoritarian reactionary Dr Kroll, splendidly salvaged by Jeffrey Wickham as a man whose fixed ideas in no way diminish his capacities as a sympathetic friend. When

Rosmer declares his loss of faith and his decision to join the opposition party, what comes next is the brutal shock this inflicts on his old friend. Kroll's lines are written as bitter accusation, but Mr Wickham plays them as a cry of pain sometimes going to the brink of tears.

Rosmer himself does not acquire so human a face. The character is the play's moral centre, and the cause for all the surrounding sacrifices, appeals, and political manipulations. Christopher Gable supplies all that, and presents the shining, unsmiling life, but without convincing you that he personally is worth all the fuss.

An electric partnership, however, does develop between him and Celia Gregory's Rebecca, whose guarded revelations and imperious undertone command every eye in the theatre. Miss Gregory has clearly explored every recess in the Rebecca mystery, and what she presents is the portrait of a woman who knows her place; who has found her own temporary point of rest and her own sense of dignity although she is not Rosmer's wife and not mistress of the house. Her playing is fast, conversational, low-keyed and packed with unspoken intensities. When these she bursts out, as when Rosmer succumbs to the guilt she has determined to drive out, or when Kroll reaches for the trigger of incest, the effect is tremendous. Her great achievement is to have vindicated the playwright's choice to create a character burdened with secrets not all of which find expression in the play. You follow her every inch of the way, and respect her decision to die with some things still unspoken.

The other stylistic masterpiece is the casting of the fine Norwegian actress, Skjoberg, in the non-naturalistic role of Ulrik Brendel who erupts among the tight-lipped gentry in the likeness of a tramp-seer, radiating warmth, volatility, flamboyant gesture, and, correctly leaving you to decide whether Brendel is a mountebank or a genius. He also connects the play directly to its poetic origins.

The Royal Ballet

The Royal Ballet will make a seven-week tour of North America next summer as part of its fifteenth anniversary season. It will visit New York, Washington, Boston and Toronto.

During the tour, which opens at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York on June 15, the company will present *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and Kenneth MacMillan's two-act ballet *Isadora*, which will receive its premiere next April; there will also be five one-act ballets by Sir Frederick Ashton and two by MacMillan. Dancers taking part will include Anthony Dowell, David Wall, Merle Park, Lesley Collier and Marguerite Portet.

As part of the celebrations for the fiftieth anniversary of the Royal Ballet, an evening of new ballets by five young choreographers will be presented by the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet next April. The works, by David Bintley, Jonathan Burrows, Michael Corder, Derek Deane and Jennifer Jackson, will be presented as part of the company's spring season at Sadler's Wells, running from March 31. Among other events, Giselle, in the production by Peter Wright, will enter the company's repertory on April 3.

Earlier in the new year the company will begin a regional tour, with visits to Southampton, Leeds, Stratford-on-Avon, Glasgow, Blackpool and Liverpool.

Radio
Never lost for words

There is never any sitting back with brain no more than half engaged when Jonathan Miller is delivering himself and this was certainly the case when he conversed with John Drummond in the first of Edinburgh Festival Writers' Conference, recorded before an audience at the 1980 Festival Writers' Conference. Notwithstanding Mr Drummond's occasional questions and observations, the whole affair gave the impression of being a more or less seamless robe of talk on his companion's part, so it was very likely impossible to avoid the rather brusque cutting and joining with which his radio listeners were moved from one topic to the next.

The conversation's main concern was to defend vigorously the role of language against those who have expressed the view that it is some way a corrupt form of artistic communication. Mr Miller reminded us that audiences for the "purer" forms, for music and dance, have grown at the expense of the language arts, from which it seems some people conclude that this is because they do the job of language better than language itself. In pursuit of this he went on to recount his own experience in the Sudan where he found himself witnessing some animated ethnic scene about the meaning of which he could only make guesses because without the local language he was lost. As he might add, not only lost but prey to fantasy if that happened to be his inclination: the people he was watching may have been engaged in something mildly jocular, they may equally have been doing the equivalent of discussing the price of groceries. Plainly in certain absolutely vital respects language is indispensable.

None of this of course is to say that other means of artistic communication are not powerful: we are most of us aware of the effects of music, dance and painting, too. And we probably know that all three arouse feelings and suggest ideas which we have difficulty putting into words. Here is the crux of the matter: it is also very noticeable in our efforts to come to grips with these "non-literate" arts that words are what we believe we ought to put them into, if we can truly claim to have understood them. The shelves of libraries and bookshops the world over tend to say the columns of great daily newspapers—testify to the strength of that belief. So there is substance at least to an argument that we expect of language more than it is actually able to perform and may even insulate ourselves from certain

experiences by our insistence on it. On the other hand this is not to say that we can or should immediately adopt some diametrically different way of behaving: a reaction against the loss of direct experience provides a practical alternative to that belief. We are permeated both individually and culturally with language and a respect for it, we are probably not much permeated by it. We might set against that. All we can do is imagine and imitate what is probably why our efforts to transcend language so often end up, in Mr Miller's words, as a kind of self-hermeneutic primal patterns of the unique brotherhood of man.

If language matters to us, then it matters to us as well—at least Robert Foxcroft's programme, Words and Worship suggests. It is some way a corrupt form of artistic communication. Mr Miller reminded us that audiences for the "purer" forms, for music and dance, have grown at the expense of the language arts, from which it seems some people conclude that this is because they do the job of language better than language itself. In pursuit of this he went on to recount his own experience in the Sudan where he found himself witnessing some animated ethnic scene about the meaning of which he could only make guesses because without the local language he was lost. As he might add, not only lost but prey to fantasy if that happened to be his inclination: the people he was watching may have been engaged in something mildly jocular, they may equally have been doing the equivalent of discussing the price of groceries. Plainly in certain absolutely vital respects language is indispensable.

I do not think these questions featured, but there was a good deal to be learnt about the frame of mind of us who do not ask them. The language of religion tells us not so much about itself, more about social and cultural changes: the old form, we learn, expresses mystery and detachment; the new, action and involvement. If the language is old-fashioned, so must that be so which it refers and people will not go for it. The underlying motive snacks of the market place, although there is undoubtedly a great deal in the remark made by Carl Eric James to a traditionalist: "Why stick to what you learnt in your childhood?" This reminds us that religion has always been presented as a special case. Yet if in many other fields we carried on according to the principles and practice of 1680, or even more the year 30, we would not expect to see faces like if they were set down to modify them according to the criteria of some other and possibly quite unrelated activity, observers might be forgiven for asking if we really know what we were on about.

David Wade

Author of *The Great Railway Bazaar*

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Collecting

Success is putting on the right show

The Royal Academy summer exhibition is a sell-out. This is a remarkable achievement, given the generally sticky market for contemporary works of art in Britain, and the vast number of paintings, drawings and sculptures which the great rooms and small rooms of Burlington House can together accommodate.

The secret of its success, in my view, lies in the works of art selected for show. While generally scoffed at by avant-garde art critics, the selectors tend to stick to the figurative end of the figurative-abstract spectrum over which contemporary art ranges. There tend to be a few purely abstract works, a great many in the middle ground where figurative elements are still recognisable but nature has been adapted to suit some structural or colouristic theory favoured by the artist, and there are also a good number of works in the traditional figurative mode.

This mix clearly appeals to the general public, in that they flock to the exhibition and actually buy. The same can hardly be said of most shows put on by London's commercial galleries specialising in contemporary art. They rely in the main on museum purchases, the Arts Council and a few foreign collectors.

Since the British public demonstrates so clearly, once a year where its tastes lie, it seems to me extraordinary that more commercial galleries—there are a few—cannot spruce up into existence to supply such work. One reason is perhaps the comparative cheapness of the works themselves; there is not a big enough turn to be made in relation to marketing effort.

However this may be, the Royal Academy itself has gone some way towards bridging the gap. The Royal Academy Business Art Galleries are rather difficult to find. They are up on the third floor next to the

Diploma Galleries. But you can get there in the lift or, if you choose to take the stairs, you can marvel at the achievements of the great nineteenth-century academicians whose works have been taken out of store and now line the stairwell—there are some very notable works. The Business Art Galleries were opened in 1978 and are one of the many money-making ventures in which the academy has indulged in recent years in a desperate attempt to get its finances on a stable footing. The business is 52 per cent owned by the RA itself; the other half is owned by Curwen Prints, Ltd, who run it.

The name was selected to underline the galleries' ambition to sell cheap but distinguished artists' prints, paintings and drawings to the business community to furnish their offices. They have succeeded in securing several substantial contracts of this kind, but the general public wander in and buy as well. At present about 100 people in search of good art with which to decorate their homes.

Everyone's tastes vary but I found myself homing in on some of the really excellent contemporary draughtsmen and draughtswomen—curiously, the latter seem to predominate. Good draughtsmanship is something that always moves me.

Top of my list I would put the pencil drawings of Jo Barry, dense little drawings of corners of hedges, gardens and fields. She has done something which becomes ever more difficult in the figurative tradition: invented a quite original style and approach. She takes a corner of flowers, grasses, lilies or moss and in a combination of hard and soft pencil for outline and shadow, she appears to render every detail of their dense interweaving. The result is extremely attractive, especially to lovers of the countryside.

Considering the amount of careful work involved the standard price of £95 for these works is modest.

Another draughtswoman of exceptional skill is Anne Le Bas. The galleries have a wide selection of her etchings, all issued in limited editions, and ranging in price from £22 up to £100, upwards—but not very far upwards.

She has an amazing control of the etching needle. At a casual glance you would identify her work with the best of the pre-impressionist generation of etchers specialising in rural scenes—Miller or early Pissarro for example.

One reason is that she has spent a lot of time in France and treats the same views and farmyard scenes. It is amazing to reflect how little she has changed. But she has a remarkable range and can run without difficulty outside their subject matter. The Church of the Exiles, Mont Geneve is a majestic mountainous landscape, the composition beautifully balanced, the page which would have excited the admiration of the best of classical landscapers. Narrowing the focus, Piss is an engaging pig-sty interior with a medley of carefully delineated porkers snuffling around, curled asleep and one mounted on his hind-legs to gaze out of the sty to a farmyard glimpsed beyond.

Washerwomen by Lake Garda takes us farther south and again, is a notable technical achievement. With a subtle use of aquatint she brings out the vivid contrast of bright southern sunlight and shadow. She can even do the English woodland. The Hollow Sycamore, gnarled and inviting childish exploration, is well worth £25 plus VAT.

Black and white, and detailed draughtsmanship, is all very well, you may be murmuring, but I want a splash of colour something to brighten the room. There are plenty of coloured

litographs to choose from in all styles, shapes and sizes. But if I had a bit of extra money in my pocket, or was prepared to save up and take one noble picture in place of four fairly good ones, I would make for Eric Luke.

Again, he has managed to invent something a bit new. From a distance you assume he is working in oils. Go up close and you discover he is working with wax, partly with wax crayons and partly in liquid wax with which he mixes his own pigment.

In subject matter his work is a cross between still life and interior scenes. Characteristically, a room with a bright Turkey carpet is furnished with a few chairs or tables on which human clothes are propped in attitudes adopted by humans themselves but with no bodies inside them; there are usually several hats, some in natural colours, some in bright pinks and purples—but mostly tributes.

The result is startling, highly decorative—and slightly mysterious. Turkey Hat, a good example, would cost you £120.

It is unfair, perhaps, to pick out only three artists from the several hundred on the

galleries' books, but one can't talk about them all in passing. I should however mention that a lithograph of Windsor Castle by the president of the Royal Academy himself, Sir Hugh Casson, is available at £58.65 with a frame and £40.25 without.

Credit should be given where credit is due. The new life that has been breathed into the Royal Academy in recent years, the constantly changing exhibitions—some marvellous some dim, but of challenging variety—the new links established with the art trade and the Business Art Galleries themselves stem largely from his initiative and drive—fuelled by a determination to make the Academy solvent.

It is a pleasure to reflect, as one slips through the arches from Piccadilly and sees its majestic facade looming before one, that this great institution has survived without handouts from the government and is so far untouched by the deadening hand of bureaucracy. With all its grandeur and distinction, it is run by an independent bunch of artists, rather eccentric, but a long way from so.

Geraldine Norman



Church of the Exiles, Mont Geneve, an etching by Anne Le Bas

Good Food Guide

The bedside manner

If all England were like the tract of sedate brick, trees, and grass that stretches from Kew to Morden and embraces the Deer Park and Twicken on the way, the world, one imagines, would be safe for Lincolne Liberalism and the Sunday Express.

Another characteristic of Richmond restaurants—as compared with their bristly and brusque counterparts in central London—is what in another professional milieu would be called a bedside manner. Customers of Restaurant Madeleine for instance, clearly also of its owner Madeleine Rouillard as a stray from Angels who stops only just short of holding their wrists and feeling their pulses. The flowers, the polished floors, and the swift cushions confirm this impression.

But the tiny room is more relaxing than this sounds, and Jacques Grebot brings to the cooking a technique and a solicitude that are not achieved by playing doctors and nurses.

Mr Grebot shares the current French interest in rhubarb, and a frequent visitor expresses high pleasure in the chicken with rhubarb sauce that made an unusual but exquisite *plat du jour* one day, and also in the rhubarb pancake with sautéed des fleurs d'orange. An accurately baked egg with an aromatic crab sauce (£1.80), fish pâté with brandy and mayonnaise, seafood pancake with Pernod and tarragon, ris de veau (£4.10) and a convincing ragout of lamb to a Marcellais recipe have also been singled out, and if the thought of rhubarb brings you out in spots, the place Cointreau is smooth, creamy and alcoholic. Table wines are £2.50, and Lirio or Corbières on the wine list clearly express an affection for the warm south. Partners 23—a shop front little restaurant that has succeeded early by the quality

of attention given to both food and customers. Tim McEntire (who cooks) and Andrew Thomason were both only 23 when they opened this cosy brown room with eight tables after meeting at catering college. They wisely went separate ways for further training before starting their partnership, and the standard set would have surprised the Guide's inspector if they had been twice the stated age.

Not an eyelid blinked when we arrived 40 minutes late after an untroubled tour of south London and then proceeded to order as many different dishes in each course of the set dinner as there were diners in the party. Moreover, the menu read well with imaginative touches, food was served at the right temperature, and every dish looked well too, quite apart from promisingly precise tastes.

"Broad bean and hazelnut soup, served with croissants, was a winner, and the stuffed pastry cases and choux buns for the other first courses were expertly made. Double lamb cutlets in omelette with fresh rosemary and a good Cumberland sauce were perhaps the best main course for the tomato and cream sauce for beef was too bland—but the sweets were quite as good as the hors d'œuvre, notably the light but rich chocolate and orange mousse, and the cranberry and pear biscuit crumble, its sweet-tart flavours delicately balanced.

Dolomere's College Claret is £4; Vendimia Especial '66 from the Rioja a better buy at £6.25. Back by the Thames in Kingston, the view is not surprisingly the outstanding feature of George W. Baron v. Heyl's Down by the Riverside. Little trouble has therefore been taken with the interior: "The room still looks and feels like

the clubhouse bar it once was, reminiscent of beery evenings after a hard day's rowing; the uncurtained windows make you feel like a perch or roach that one of the anglers outside may at any moment fish out of the pond sitting in; and even to reach a lavatory you have to go outside."

On its good days, or in its good dishes, the restaurant earns people's approbation though there is a sense of conveyance, a sense that communication matters to the owner as much as cookery does. There are some good ideas, from "quails in the nest" to "pear. William—a lovely confection of fresh pear, sorbet, and eau-de-vie de poire Williams." Borchetta and fish soups can be excellent, and steaks are large and tender.

Details:
Gino's, 15-17 Hill Rise, Richmond, Surrey, Tel. 01-948 3002. Closed Monday. Must book dinner. Meals 12.30-2.30 (3 Sunday), 6.30-11.30 (7-12 Friday and Saturday, 7-11.30 Sunday). Table d'hôte lunch from £4.50. A la carte meal with wine about £12.25.

Madeline, 122 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey, Tel. 01-948 4445. Closed lunch; Sunday; Monday. Must book. Dinner 7.15-10.45. A la carte meal with wine about £11.50. Partners 23, 23 St Leonards Hill, Surrey, Tel. 01-644 7743. Closed lunch; Sunday; Monday. Must book. Dinner 7.30-9.30. Table d'hôte dinner £8. Down by the Riverside, Canterbury Gardens, Lower Ham, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, Tel. 01-546 6562 and 549 3039. Closed lunch. Must book. Dinner 7.30-10. A la carte meal with wine about £11.50. © Times Newspapers Ltd and the Good Food Guide (Consumers' Association and Hodder) 1981.

Bridge

Worth the sacrifice

At duplicate bridge it is simple to assess whether a sacrifice is a good proposition. If the penalty you suffer is less than the score your opponents would have made, the sacrifice is a demonstrable success, provided of course that the opponents would have made their contract.

Sacrifice bidding at rubber bridge introduces some additional considerations. This may explain why one expert at my club addresses a polite homily to all his partners outlining the follies of sacrificing, particularly with him.

If the opponents are vulnerable, and you are not, how many points can your side profitably concede in order to save the rubber? Duplicate players who are unaccustomed to playing rubber bridge are especially prone to arithmetical miscalculation. At duplicate, to lose five hundred to save the game at this vulnerability would be a success. At rubber bridge it is a downright failure. The odds remain 3-1 against you winning the rubber. There is a further less obvious disadvantage; if your opponents bid and make a slam, they will get a bonus of 750 points, whereas you will only get 500.

The existence of a part score should exert a powerful influence on your decision to sacrifice. With neither side vulnerable, it is good tactics to save the game if you have a part score and very unwise if the position is reversed. Sacrificing when the opponents are vulnerable and also have a part score is the privilege of the rich.

So far, we have assumed that the players are of equal ability. But let us suppose that you have cut the "pond sitting in" and two fair players. Do you really wish to prolong the struggle? It is amusing to watch players who should know better, putting up a spirited defence of their bed of nails, perhaps because they allow their conceit to get the

better of their commonsense. Making the decision to sacrifice at duplicate is a good test of a player's judgment.

East West Game and 60 Dealer West

East West Game Dealer North

Opening lead

Opening lead

East West Game and 60 Dealer West

East West Game Dealer North

Opening lead

Opening lead

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Travel I

End of season sale

Towards the end of December, I ventured to suggest that you might benefit by waiting a while before making your holiday bookings, and even that you should haggle with your travel agent in order to obtain financial or other advantages. My reasoning was that there were too many holidays on offer and in a buyers' market the manufacturers were likely to reduce their prices and the retailers offer inducements to gain your business.

The result of this was a predictable number of letters from ruffled tour operators and travel agents—I had no idea of the complexities of the trade; I was completely out of touch with the facts; I was out of step with other journalists who were reporting excellent booking trends, and so on—and a critical/humorous article. The Order of the Carter in one travel trade paper as its anonymous author clearly reads this column this is the only way I can compliment him on his style, if that is the word, and wonder whether he will quote similarly selected sections from today's article.

But in the face of that reaction and that criticism, what have we here? None other than Mr. Sidney Silver, the managing director of Cosmos Holidays and much respected figure in the travel industry, forecasting "panic discounting" of summer holidays by some tour companies.

"By March, some operators will be paying clients to go away. They'll be selling at 1980 prices, but with 1981 costs." He made that statement (quoted in the trade newspaper mentioned above) when meeting travel agents in South Wales. His opinion of the state of the market is echoed by others who have spoken privately to me but who will not be persuaded to speak for publication for fear of retribution as a consequence of rocking the boat. What is said inside the travel industry does quite often conflict with what is said publicly, and I must confess surprise at the glibility of some of my colleagues who pay on and publicize the claims of "a holiday bookings bonanza" and the like. This schizophrenic attitude is epitomized for me in the reactions to my December article of a travel agent who claimed that he had no need to offer inducements as business was excellent, then a week or so later was offering £4 per person off the cost of any holiday to those who clipped a coupon

from his local newspaper advertisement. Obviously, not all is gloom and despondency. Individual companies may be doing particularly well to one destination or another, for instance, and some of the smaller specialist operators are reasonably content with 1981 prospects. But overall the market for summer holidays is down and, as the number of holidays on offer was increased by something like 20 per cent over the 1980 figure anyway, I can understand why the travel trade is anxious to get things moving.

A lack of bookings affects us, as holidaymakers, in two ways. First, a particular holiday that is not doing well will often be amalgamated with another in the brochure—the trade calls this "consolidation", and I have written about it here previously. Because of it we find our plans having to be altered, and extremely inconvenient it can be.

Second, that surplus of empty seats on the charter holiday flights, or some of it, can find its way on to the market via the "bucket shops"—about which I have also written, and the origin of whose name I am still seeking. This week I talked with the proprietor of one such shop who tells me he is being flooded with seats for disposal.

Remembering to make an allowance for his understandable enthusiasm and/or bias, the fact that he claims "25 per cent more seats available than last year" might be of interest. It certainly will be to that growing number of people who choose to purchase cut price tickets and assemble their own holidays from the offers of villa and hotel accommodation that are made via the small advertisement columns of this and other newspapers.

To the embarrassment of the tour companies such independently minded people often travel in company with those who have purchased the complete "package holiday", and upset the latter by confiding how much they paid for their ticket. They sometimes though not so often go further and compare the cost of their independently assembled holiday with that of the pre-packaged variety, to the detriment of the latter.

An indication of what is to come has been given by the cutting of prices on British Airways Sovereign winter holidays—a sort of end of season sale. And I received news this week that Blue Sky holidays,

part of the British Caledonian travel group, is offering substantial discounts on holidays this month. Up to £20 is being cut from the holiday of seven night holidays, and up to £40 on fourteen night holidays.

As a result of introducing Tristar on its routes six months ago, British West Indian Airways have a lot of extra seats to sell, and have reduced Advance Purchase Excursion (APEX) fares on the services to Trinidad and Barbados. The low season return fare to Trinidad has been cut by £78 to £290, and the high season fare is £340 return—a cut of £126. Those new fares take effect immediately, although one must make allowance for the time required by the rules of advance purchase. The new fares to Barbados take effect on April 1. The basic season return is £224, a reduction of £71.50, and the peak season return will be £350, a reduction of £38. I imagine that these, and other reduced fares, should eventually affect the price of inclusive holidays based on BWA flights.

Returning to the subject of inclusive holidays, the tour companies are anxious to avoid a price cutting free-for-all and some are reminding travel agents that no holiday should be offered at a price below that printed in the brochure without the consent of the tour company. I have the impression that the harsh realities of the present market place may cause operators and agents increasingly to overlook that aspect of their business arrangements.

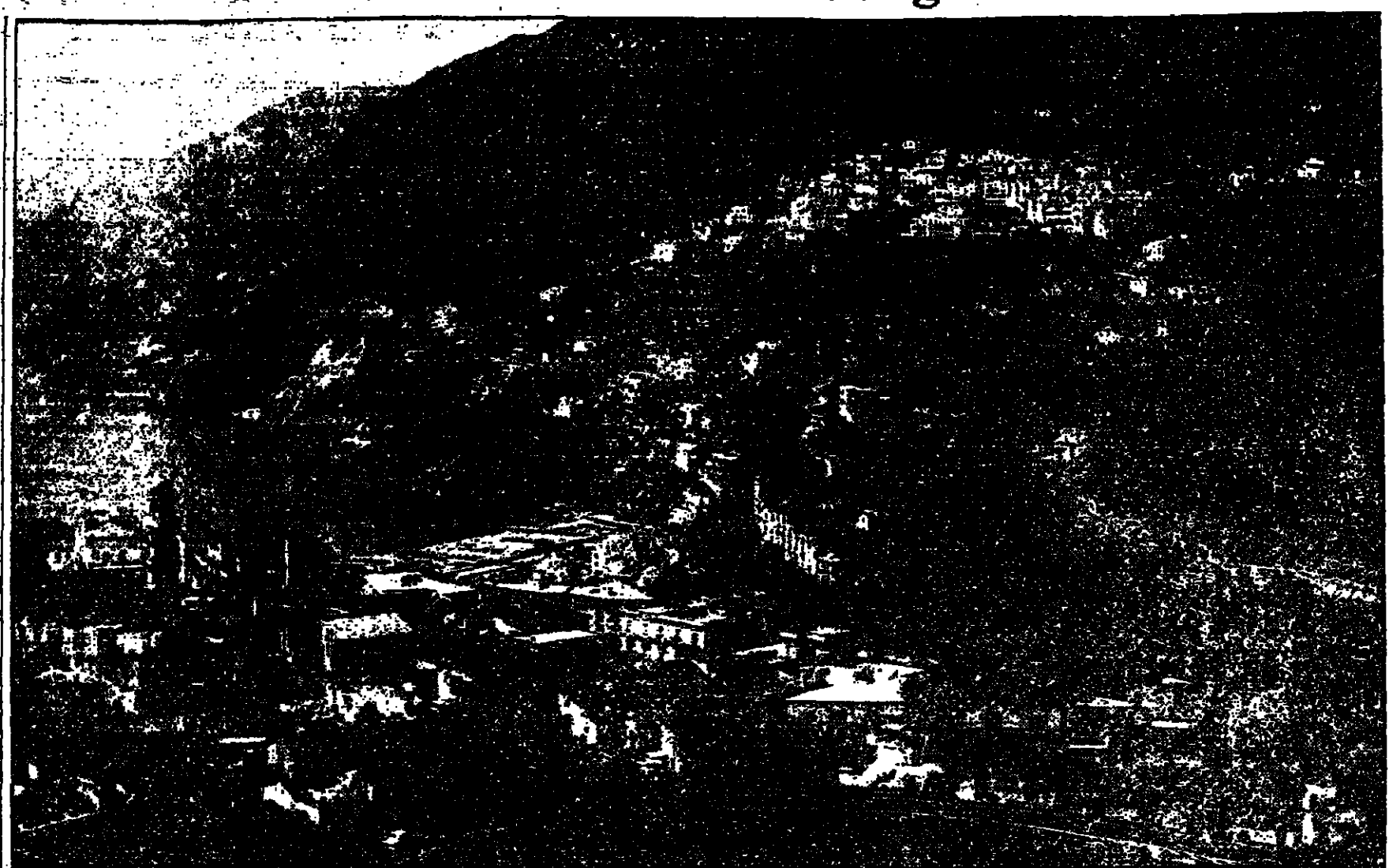
And, with due acknowledgment to the travel trade press, I will return to the comments of Mr. Silver at that meeting in South Wales. Commenting that some tour operators with their own airline might be looking cheap because they can keep their aircraft flying, he acknowledged that there was already some dumping of seats on to the discount market. "That's fine for the public, but it could be dangerous", he is reported as saying. "It is suggesting that anyone is going to go bust, but one or two people are going to take risks and may be financially stretched."

I wonder who he has in mind? Perhaps I shall have to ask my knowledgeable colleagues on the business news pages, who know so much more about the intricacies of finance than I.

John Carter

Travel II

No wonder tenors want to go back



Viesti sul Mare, one of southern Italy's many attractive resorts.

Mixed impressions, mixed feelings are what one must bring back from a three-day trip around the Campania and Basilicata regions of southern Italy, especially as the project was designed specifically by the Italian State Tourist Board to show European journalists that despite the devastation of the earthquake on November 23 there are ready, able and eager to welcome visitors this year.

Some of the best known resorts in Europe are in these parts and it must be said that at a quick glance they appear to have suffered little from the disaster, the full force of which is stated officially to have left some 3,600 dead, 8,400 injured and many thousands homeless. In Naples many old buildings gave way under the strain. But it is said in the city that had they been inspected the day before the earthquake they would have been condemned anyway.

Hotels escaped comparatively lightly (four of Campania's 1,500 there are 81 that cannot be used and 130 that are partly usable) and it was emphasized that hoteliers had readily put their premises at the disposal of the homeless—the government will eventually foot the bill for accommodation, compensation and reconstruction. Relocating schemes are under way and it is expected that some 200 displaced people still in hotels will have left by the beginning of April.

Signor Nicola Signorello, Minister of Tourism and Entertainment, underlined the point that foreigners coming to southern Italy this season would help not only financially but also by boosting the devastated morale of the population in the hardest hit areas.

Our visit coincided with what locals were describing as the coldest winter spell for more than 30 years—in other

words, slightly chilly by British standards—but nothing can chill an Italian's love of the dramatic gesture and it is this utterly different atmosphere that is one of the Mezzogiorno's main charms. Dining at a Neapolitan restaurant, for instance, is a revelation, rather like the San Carlo opera house without music, unless you happen to catch the eye of a wandering minstrel out to make some quick lire. Waiters weave at speed among customers hanging around for tables, spaghetti is juggled in the kitchen and everyone is marvellously good humoured.

And, of course, there is the driving, which all seems to be done in Fiat. Red lights are ignored if the driver thinks it is safe to proceed (Italian drivers are great optimists) and the green "Avanti!" is a signal for pedestrians to race for ancient mariners to we have less than two hours at Pompeii with an excellent guide who knows every stone of the place and is disturbed at the way frescoes are exposed to sunlight (and careless hands) and superb mosaics are trampled underfoot. Italy treats its priceless Roman remains with an insouciance that must horrify foreign museum curators.

By a disastrous irony, the ruins that have endured at Pompeii since Vesuvius wrecked havoc in AD 79 were damaged by last November's

quake, so much so that the ghost city was closed to the public and only reopened this month. Some of the avenues signposted "Pericolo", are still fenced off but there is much to see, including the house of the two bachelor Vetru brothers with its murals and priapic fertility symbols standing up well under the searching scrutiny of centuries.

We approached Sorrento in the best possible way, from the sea, aboard the hydrofoil. Amarietia after our stops at Ischia and Capri. Sorrento has been a holiday centre since Augustus and Tiberius, but its charms were not apparent to some holidaymakers from north-east England who told me that their package had been far from ideal and that high prices in restaurants and hotels bore little relation to those in the shops.

On the other hand, I was stopped in the street by a Sorrento resident who said his wife was English, they bought The Times, Telegraph and Mail every day, and I was to write that the town was beautiful and unaffected by the quake. In fact, one hotel was destroyed and another badly damaged but it is an attractive spot and I can understand why so many tenors want to return to it.

Maratea, a four-hour coach drive from Amalfi—and it is a spectacular coastal route until you hit the autostrada—is equally charming with its narrow, steep streets in the old town and the dominant Monte San Biagio (named for Maratea's patron saint) topped by Bruno Zevi's 72ft-high statue of Christ.

So many tantalizing glimpses, so many intriguing stones left unturned... but plenty to indicate that in its irresistible way the south is rising again.

Richard Bruton

Drink

Out of the rocks

The Dao region in north Portugal is wild, remote, picturesque. It is almost enclosed by mountains, the summers are warm but the winters can be bitterly cold and wet. The vines, in plots between the terraced, mostly trained low on wires. The soil—if such it can be termed—is granite, so that planting has to be done by battering holes in the rock, or blasting.

It is an exhilarating place to explore, perhaps from the exuberantly baroque and blue-tiled Palace Hotel at Bussaco, which has its own unique wines: this is an hour's drive from the Dao capital, Viseu, a charming, historic town. The local restaurants (the Corrico is outstanding) feature the robust regional fare, including game, wild and dishes redolent of the mountain herbs also home produced brandies, one of these being a curious "aguardiente velho" containing olives.

Viseu is the headquarters of the Federação dos Vinicultores do Dao. They can, on request, provide detailed information for the seriously interested and their seal must be on every bottle of Dao shipped. They stress the importance of cultivating the local vine varieties, as they do not want any modification of traditional Dao style by the introduction of other European wine grapes. This accords with wise Portuguese wine policy of making no compromise about names of "commercializing" historic wines into insipidity. Indeed, Dao cannot be compared with any other wine and, from the numerous examples now on sale, each individual, there is a uniformly high quality maintained.

About 90 per cent of Dao is red but some white grapes are used even for this.

Most of the wines are handled by the cooperatives, although there are some individual estates. As much of the wine goes through installations which may or may not be in the area, it is the name of this

firm that is important when distinguishing between different styles. Vintages do not seem to vary much, unless there is a disastrous year and all the red wines get some maturation in wood, varying from 18 months to four years, the "reservas" being aged for longest. In general, 10 years is a good life for most Daos, when the dark ruby tone lightens slightly, the aroma becomes more enticing, the flavour develops a soft, lingering character, and the fruit is attenuated.

The whites, as might be expected, do not seem to improve much after a few years and they are big, dry wines. Grillo Wines (Little Knox-bridge, Cranbrook Road, Supplehurst, Kent) have the white Terras Altas 1975 of José Maria da Fonseca for £2.29 and the Malmos Wine Club (St Pancras Chambers, Euston Road, NW1) have the white 1969 Garrafeira Particular of Caves Alameda for £3.65. Both are too bold for aperitif drinking, but good with the seasoned cod recipes so much a speciality of Portugal. The Terras Altas is minerally dry, evocative of its granite and schist vineyards, the Alameda more graceful.

The 1972 Conde de Santar, trim, close-knit and individual, is among the red Daos available here—£2.20 from some branches of Victoria Wine, or on order from them. A highly esteemed wine is the 1971 Ribalonga, costing £2.20 from Cullens, Wine Mart and Gourmet & Goblet branches (head office 142 Battersea Park Road, SW11). Ribalonga wines usually possess elegance and give the drinker something to discuss. Grillo Wines list the 1972 and 1976 Terras Altas, costing £2.73 and £2.29 respectively; this pair shows how a straightforward wine can, with some age, develop a rounded, cosy character.

A dinner-table comparison of these, with their J. M. da Fonseca style, with that of Ribalonga or, as a concluding wine, the 1970 Reserve of Caves Aca-

cin would be very interesting: the Acaico is a giant, the initial smell and even the first taste seeming cold, aloof, but the wine then reveals a warm-hearted flavour with an impressive fruitiness emerging. £2.98 from Les Amis du Vin, 51, Chiltern Street, W1. Or, for a special occasion, you might compare this wine with the 1970 Reserva of Adegas Cooperativas (their white wines are worth seeking by visitors to Portugal). This costs £2.78 from Grillo Wines and its silky character makes it advisable to serve it before the Acaico wine: the bouquet is fresh and delightfully reminiscent of pineapples, the fine crimson colour and the crescendo of flavour are marked.

One major range of Dao is Grapo, named after the painter whose home town was Viseu. The wines are definite in style, the whites markedly steely, the reds with details of flavour and easy appeal. Grapo Vasco white, 1978, costs £2.65, the 1976 red (which will improve for several years) is the same price, both being available from Bennetts of Kingston, Kendal Milne of Manchester, and Carrefour Hypermarkets.

A smoother version, Grapo Vasco 1973, costs £2.85 from Edward Sheldon, Shipston-on-Stour, Gloucestershire, or, as a wine to end a dinner on a high note, there is the 1972 Reserva for £3.25 from Les Amis du Vin, Edward Sheldon and Carrefour Hypermarkets.

For a party, the Grapo Vasco 1970 in magnum is a bargain at £5.17 and United Kingdom representatives Rawlings Voigt, 228, Waterloo Station Approach, SE1, will advise inquiries about stockists. Most red Daos seem to benefit by being opened or decanted in advance of drinking and they appear to remain pleasantly so for 36 hours, although, understandably, some bouquet is lost, virtually no flavour seems to decline.

Pamela Vandyke Price

Harry Golombek is unwell. He hopes to resume his chess column in next week's Saturday Review.

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Barbados harbour police on patrol



WE'VE KNOCKED DOWN OUR CITIES

CITY/TOUR	AIRPORT/COACH STATION	NO. OF NIGHTS	DATES	FINAL PRICE	SAVING
DEPARTURES BY AIR					
Rome	Gatwick	3	20 Feb	£95	£20
Venice	Luton	4	2,9 Mar	£105	£20
Cities of Italy	Manchester	7	14,28 Mar	£179	£30
Nice	Luton	3	13 Feb	£69	£40
Jerusalem	Luton	7	2 Mar	£220	£40
Jordan	Heathrow	7	26 Feb, 5 Mar	£214	£40
Leningrad/Moscow	Gatwick	7	28 Feb, 7 Mar	£151	£25
Caucasian Tour	Gatwick	7	14,21,28 Mar	£186	£25
Grand Tunisian Tour	Newcastle	7	26 Feb	£185	£35
DEPARTURES BY COACH					
Five European Capitals	Manchester	8	28 Mar	£176	£30
European Highlights	Victoria	11	14,21,28 Mar	£198	£30

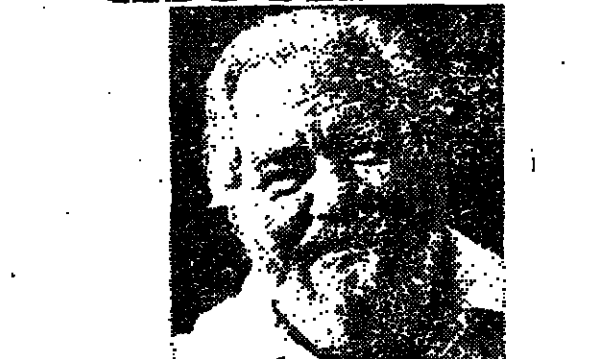
This is just a sample of the cities we're knocking down this winter.

There are many more, so see your travel agent before they're flattened altogether.

Holidays are selected hotels in the cities mentioned. Meal arrangements are for bed and breakfast on city holidays, but most include half or full board. Details are in the Winter Sun and Cities Brochure. Prices quoted are guaranteed lowest airport charges, surcharges and insurance have been included. Holidays subject to availability. ATOL 1232C.

Thomson Winter Cities

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We love to come home for the Hols
Gerry Dunne

Lee and Gerald Durrell see a lot of the world in their travels but can't wait to come home to Jersey and their famous zoo.

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Although Jersey lies close to the coast of France, you'll be surprised how British it all is. But this is a Britain with long hours of sunshine, smiling faces, a notable cuisine and an unhurried lifestyle. The good humour of the residents may have something to do with their low rates of duty and the total absence

of VAT, that makes shopping a special pleasure.

The interior of the island is fresh and green. And the coastline will surprise you with its breathtaking bays.

You can laze on a vast, unworked beach. Or industriously follow your favourite sport. At night, you might head for one of the discos, dances or nightspots. And after each exciting day, you'll come up smiling for the next.

This year let Jersey bring out the smiles. Post the coupon for literature and details of our fine hotels and guesthouses to: States of Jersey Tourism, Dept 136, Weighbridge, St Helier, Jersey C.I.

Jersey—the happiest of States.

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Address _____



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HOTELS IN	AIRPORT	PRICES FROM	SAVING
Italy	Gatwick	£97	£20
Spain	Luton	£109	£15
France	Gatwick	£86	£20
Austria	Manchester	£101	£15
Switzerland	Manchester	£128	£15

Prices shown are for 7 nights and include surcharges, airport charges and basic insurance, and a minimum of bed and breakfast. Holidays are available from other airports, and are subject to availability.

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cost than you could manage yourself. Write for your free brochure to: The Registrar, Dept. 38, Mermaid Hotel, St Peter, Jersey C.I. Tel: 0534 41255.

Jersey



Freed American hostages arriving home—some 200 years ago there was another hostage story...

How the ransom was raised for the other US hostages

As the American hostages aligned from their white Boeing to an hysterical and well-orchestrated welcome, one wondered what the hostages of the first American encounter with militant Islam would have thought.

American seamen were seized on the Barbary Coast of North Africa in the late eighteenth century and released often only after years of haggling by a Congress which set a value of \$200 on each man's head, and even then made the proviso that he might have to pay it back.

But these dirty, emaciated and fever-racked hostages had their own humble footnote in the establishment of the United States as a world power. Their plight led to the foundation of both the United States Navy and the Marine Corps—whose march, "From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli" was inspired by these events.

The infant United States soon discovered the disadvantages of military impotence. As colonies they had enjoyed the protection of the leading naval power for their trade, some of which passed along one of the world's busiest shipping routes, the southern Mediterranean passage from the Pillars of Hercules to the Levant.

This was the notorious Barbary Coast, the dark skirts of the Atlas range where they met the Western desert. Once it had been a prosperous province of the Roman Empire but after the Muslim conquest it lived off piracy. The corsair strongholds, Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli, were pashaliks organized into pirate communities, on the pattern of the Brethren of the Coast of the Spanish Main.

American vessels, unarmed and sailing even without the protection of a convoy, found themselves picked off by pirate xebecs and brigs, lying in ambush in North African creeks.

Sometimes the pirate vessel was disguised as a merchant ship. The brig Polly of Boston, for instance, was deceived by pirates disguised as western deck officers. A seaman aboard her who kept a diary of his captivity, said that boarders with "long beards and Muslim dress suddenly appeared on the gunwales, and brandishing scimitars and pistols, rushed through the ship like ravening wolves".

They stripped the American sailors of their clothing and gave them in exchange rags and tatters. They then paraded them through the streets of Algiers "to the tune of huzzas for such a triumph over so many Christian dogs". Taken before the Dey they were told: "How I have you, you Christians, dogs, you shall eat stones".

The captives were put to labour, in chains, in mountain quarries, cutting stone which they dragged down to the shore to reinforce the quays of the mole. The common punishment was the bastinado, whipping the soles of the feet. While their fetters were being rivetted on the Americans were taunted by the Dey with glances of the "infidels of Washington". He called on the American Congress to send him a portrait of the general "that he might always have before his eyes the asserter of independence and liberty".

The Congress would have liked to have sent a gunboat,

had it one to send. But the legislature was divided on the question of military preparedness and the New England merchants and shipowners were outvoted by the southern planters and frontiersmen.

Without any warships the United States had no option but to follow the European custom and buy off the pirates.

An American wrote that the Dutch were supposed to pay \$100,000 annually for having their ships pass unmolested; the Spaniards, over a five-year period, paid \$4.5m while the Venetians found 50,000 ducats to ensure a free run for 15 of their vessels.

A Congress almost bankrupt in winning independence did not feel itself in a position to match such bribes. At first Congress tried negotiating a treaty with the pirate states, using French intermediaries. They discovered that neither France nor Britain, former allies or protectors, could be trusted and negotiations had to be carried out with each state in turn, using American agents.

The Dey of Algiers demanded \$59,496 for delivering up 21 seamen; captains being assessed at \$6,000 mates and passengers at \$4,000 and sailors at \$1,400. Plus tax at 11 per cent according to custom. Congress authorized the payment of not more than \$200 per man, to be repayable to the government on demand.

Negotiations were referred back to Congress, as in the case of the even more obdurate Tripolitans who, when the two future presidents, John Adams and Jefferson, met their representative in London, demanded a tribute of \$100,000 a year. He later scaled his demand down to a "permanent treaty" for only 30,000 guineas. Jefferson played for time, trying to give the corsairs the impression that he was indifferent to the captives' fate in the hope that the ransom would be lessened.

Instead he brought down on his head the imprecations of his suffering fellow countrymen.

The debate now opened on what price was to be put on national pride. Whereas Adams argued that tribute was worth paying as it was less than the increase in insurance on American shipping caused by piracy, Jefferson held out for the creation of a navy capable of dealing with the menace. He wished to see peace concluded with the Barbary states "through the medium of war," and this he was supported by growing public agitation for some sort of action.

The Navy Bill passed Congress by only two votes. It authorized the building of a class of frigates which packed the strength of a ship of the line into a smaller, sleeker frame.

In the event the United States thrashed out a treaty with Algiers without having to fight. They handed over as a basic payment \$585,000.

The London banking house of Baring did not have enough gold and silver to cover the requirement. The Dey, "extremely irritated" at the delay, threatened to renew attacks on American shipping if it was not forthcoming in 30 days.

At the last moment the American agent raised the money with Jewish bankers in Leghorn and Lisbon and the captives were freed.

John Crossland

"So, reflation is out." That really was the nub of Mrs Thatcher's no-cut-and-run message to the country this week throughout what seemed like an endless economics seminar. But it is what is "in" in economic policy that is now the most urgent issue. Have the Government, as an increasing number of people profess, changed course, with ministers ready to die to preserve their right not to say so, or are Mrs Thatcher and the group of like-minded Cabinet colleagues with whom she breakfasts, fighting a battle to hold firm, even get back on course, and so inflict further deflation? If it is to be deflation the outlook is darker than it seems.

Mrs Thatcher is often seen at her best when she is fighting, or rather, fighting back. This was not true of her circuitous television performance in LWT's *Weekend World*. Apart from the saccado and revealing thrust of insistence about not cutting and running she was all over the shop, and extraordinarily negative. She hates TV interviews, even from the affably astute Mr Brian Walden, and it shows.

To forestall protest letters from her large fan club (which are, of course, always welcome) let me hasten to add that the Prime Minister was in far sharper form with a concentrated performance in the Commons debate. Someone had insisted that she put in a positive period, and it works. She has improved her sardonic parliamentary appearances and the more is the pity they are not televised.

This was near her fighting best. But against whom is she fighting? Judging by the action on stage, it is the Labour Opposition, the TUC, the

Liberals and, yes, even the new Social Democrats, supported by the banks, whose demands for huge new spending and so reflation, must be defeated.

The TUC after all, nicely obliged with their new prospectus for £5,000m of public spending and so provided an easy target. Then, the meeting of the National Economic Development Council at Millbank which Mrs Thatcher chaired was another good opportunity to do down the TUC—even if what ITN called Downing Street sources worked hard to dismiss reports of any clash.

Then there is the CBI. What they urge by way of tax reductions would radically affect the Government's financial posture, even if they profess to support the Government's objectives. Now every sane person must support the basic objective of seeing the country restored to economic health. It is, as Mrs Thatcher said on television "How in the world do we get from where we are now there..." that divided the body politic.

But none of these on-stage personae can actually make a government cut and run. To get the flavour of Mrs Thatcher's resistance here is the full quote of her proclamation:

"Can I say just one more thing? I think that it's just at this stage, when previous governments have begun to get things right, but there have been some adverse things showing that they have cut and run. They've gone back to the old habits of reflation which is a polite word for flooding the economy with money to get jobs quickly, regardless of the fact they lose more later."

Fred Emery

The lady's not for cutting and running

One unemployed single man is now estimated to be costing the country £4,835 a year—and a married man with two children, £6,006

That can only apply to one event—the Heath government's famous U-turn, its dash for growth. Although Mrs Thatcher now grandly consigns the past 25 years to the political scrap heap—Macmillan's time along with Heath's—the only government that in her view could remotely have been "getting things right" was Mr Heath's. She knows. She was there, in his Cabinet.

But my point is so were most of the rest of the present Cabinet. They have not all learnt their monetarist lessons; some of the political heavyweights like Lord Carrington, Mr Whitelaw, and Mr Francis Pym, who are removed from direct economic control, have been rather holding their breath. Their refuge is that they cannot see any alternatives, not yet anyway.

The genuine "wets" have of course muted their apprehensions often enough. If ever they all got together in Cabinet they could persuade the Government to "cut and

run": it is they Mrs Thatcher must be presumed to be resisting.

The political problem with the whole stance of "the lady's not for turning" is that it appeals only to her most hardened supporters. When the Government does adjust, even modify its policies, it then finds itself impaled on her earlier categorical imperatives and cannot take credit for its realism. It also gives the impression of begrudging even what Mrs Thatcher calls "selective help" to industry.

Take her attitude to the assistance for British Leyland. It was presented to the public as a lesser calamity, than shutting down the whole of the Midlands. No real attempt was made by ministers to champion what was happening at BL as a turn for the better.

There is also apprehension and the need for candour over the effects of unemployment. The Treasury's own written answers state that one unemployed single man is now estimated to be costing the country £4,835 a year—and a married man with two children £6,006. This estimate includes the loss of revenue, plus state benefits paid out—a total now running well over £10,000m, and rising. Mrs Thatcher shied away from this figure in the Commons. She did try, to her credit, answering the man-in-the-street question of why this money is not spent on job creation. But she used only the total of £2,400m paid out in benefits to explain that this would not be nearly enough to create so many jobs, and possibly might throw others out of work, too.

The fact is that it is this cost of what the Exchequer falls to get in as

well as pay out that is driving up Government spending and borrowing. It is making the targets set last year in the Government's medium-term financial strategy unattainable—unless there is to be real, further deflation.

Who else has alternatives? The National Economic Development Office produced a list of industries in Britain that could expand. More than one Conservative reckons that it is time for the Government again to risk picking and backing winners. All our competitors do it while our Government spends the money on unemployment. Can a policy of intervention be called expansion rather than inflation?

It is not as if this Government has much time left to get away from its remedy of taking bitter medicine. It now enters a period of critical scrutiny. The Budget, with its likely higher taxes on drinks and smokes can hardly fail to be unpopular. And, before the local elections, which have so far been scrutinized for what they might do to the Social Democrats, there could be real blows for the Tories.

The industrial worker, above all, will be hit in a big way by increases in council rents and charges for gas, electricity, telephone and rates. All will come in time for the union conferences and the boast now of wage moderation could then go out of the window.

No wonder Lord Thorneycroft was trying to restate a Tory claim for the centre ground. For all the catcalls this week, it has begun to look like the place where the voters might cut and run too.



Karl Schranz: a man who could win at downhill and slalom.

Sportsview

Putting the old skill back into skiing

Karl Schranz, probably the best skier the sport has produced since the British showed the Alpine countries what to do with their mountains at the turn of the century, is among the growing number of critics of the present condition of skiing. Unlike almost everyone else, however, he is no racist convert. Schranz raised his voice many years ago, long before the present spate of injuries raised questions about the virtual isolation of male downhill racers from the women. It should be added in parentheses, have by and large remained true to the spirit of skiing and resisted unhealthy specialisation.

"I warned Marc Hodler, the president of the International Ski Federation, way back in 1966", Schranz said. "They were changing the downhill courses into autobahns, so that technique came a poor second to the straight downhill thrash down the hill. You no longer had to think, to use your snowcraft, your mountaintcraft".

Soon, he said last week at St Anton, the cradle of not only

Alpine skiing but also of Schranz himself, we would be moving towards the kilometre lance if we were not careful—a reference to the track high up in the Italian Alps in the shadow of the Matterhorn, where speeds of 200 kph (120 mph) and more are achieved on a straight course at a terrifyingly steep angle. It must come near to free falling.

Schranz speaks with some authority, a man who gained his first international downhill victory at the age of 17 and his last 15 years later in 1972, when he was never hurt, a cosmetic conversion of the challenging, Hahnenkamm at Kitzbühel but also a second downhill on the same course within 24 hours. Altogether he reckons to have won 30 international races and about 45 altogether.

Add the races he failed to win and you could tremble that he was changing the downhill into a series of autobahns, so that technique came a poor second to the straight downhill thrash down the hill. You no longer had to think, to use your snowcraft, your mountaintcraft".

capable of winning a slalom, too. There lies the secret.

Schranz, a welcoming Anglophile, maintains that the sport must get back to its former character, where a downhill would not ski like a cow through slalom gates and the slalom would not be daunted by straight running. "It would have to be step by step" because you can't change things overnight. "It makes a mockery of the sport when a man can come in low down in both downhill and slalom (or giant slalom) and still do well in the combined, a competition based upon the two that yields lucrative World Cup points.

Some downhillers, he thought, would find the change almost impossible to make. Others would readily adapt. Given the time to train slalom. He was unwilling to point a finger, except in the case of Steve Podborski, a Canadian who has excelled in the downhill this year, "helped admittedly by the fact that he has stayed in one piece where so many around him have had to encase some part of their body in plaster. Podborski, he felt,

was basically an accomplished skier, who could thrive in the slalom with adequate preparation.

Schranz wants to see more curves introduced into downhill courses and slower flat sections, where "you would have to make the speed yourself". In spite of the qualities of modern suits, skis, helmets, boots, and so on, the speeds have not improved all that dramatically since the tail end of his career. The average now is about 106 kph against 100 kph in his day. But 6 per cent represents about seven seconds or more in a ski race. When you consider that a race can be won by the odd few hundredths of a second, seven seconds is a substantial advance on the clock.

Is it worth the risk? Schranz thinks emphatically not, particularly in view of the unhealthy consequences of training men solely for the technical technique required for downhill running. The technical standards would be bound to fall, and they have.

John Hennessy

Another stunner from Moscow

Film makers don't come much more amusing than Andrei Tarkovsky. His films, like *Solaris*, are stunningly beautiful but what they are about has dumbfounded even the sharpest critics. The best they can do is hazard an intelligent guess and say go and see it.

Tarkovsky is in London at the moment to launch his latest brain teaser, *Stalker*, which opened in London this week. While here he will give a lecture at the National Film Theatre tomorrow and visit Glasgow. Tarkovsky thinks that by looking for a meaning we are in danger of missing what his films are about.

"You shouldn't confuse two concepts", he said. "Understanding in the sense of scientific conception and understanding in the perception of a work of art. My pictures do not claim to require any deciphering. All I need is for my viewer to enter the world of my films, because art acts directly upon feelings.

"People see art as a charade and start deciphering its vulgar meaning. The purpose of art isn't to teach, not to make people imitate. The purpose of art is to shake people. It should make people change and open up their spirituality, to prepare their soul for good.

"It is unimportant to me what the viewers will grasp. What is important to me is that he should feel something. I must make him anxious, disturb him. Art is accessible to all people with a developed soul, not necessarily to people who are more or less educated, but to people who are spiritually richer."

That is all very well, but what about the critic, whose job it is to explain in words what a film is about? Tarkovsky smiled. "That's your business. It is our business to make films and yours to explain them. And that is why we are always grateful to you when you find things in our films that we hadn't found ourselves. A critic's view is a completely different point of view to ours and one which we can never share. It is better to see a film once than read about it ten times."

This artistic purity does not make friends among the Soviet authorities, who prefer a less ambiguous contribution. *Stalker*, for instance, is a fable about three men who enter a forbidden zone. They are a writer, a scientist and a guide, the stalker. They are searching for a room which will provide an answer to every question.

A political person might think

that the room was socialism and the stalker a Communist leader. A religious person might imagine that the stalker is an evangelist. But Tarkovsky denies that his film is allegorical.

"The idea is that the fate of man depends entirely upon himself. We are each responsible for everything. To believe in the future we must believe in ourselves. The stalker is someone who feels almost sick with this awareness, whose job it is to return people to faith in themselves."

It is not exactly the stuff of a box-office hit and in the USSR his films like *Mirror*, still showing in London, have been restricted to small, uncomfortable, suburban cinemas. When pressure from the West drew attention to this shabby treatment of Russia's most important film maker, Tarkovsky surprised everyone by saying that he could only make films like his in the Soviet Union.

His recent attempt to make a film in Italy confirmed him in his belief. *Homesickness* was to have been for RAI, the state television network, about a Russian who goes to Italy to study Renaissance art, but it was fouled up by money and bureaucracy troubles. "Whenever I make a film in Moscow they always get me all the money I need."

At the moment he is working on two other projects, a personal adaptation of Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*, which he calls "ungratifying work", and another film which he is keeping secret. As for the future in general, he is appropriately cryptic.

"My purpose is to preserve the level of Soviet cinema at whatever cost. Even if the people in charge of me are displeased with the way I work, I will continue in defiance of them. I would like my pictures to have been distributed better. I make my films first and foremost for my fellow countrymen. If I could not do that it would be a tragedy for me and I will fight this in every way I can."

"As for the future, I'm afraid even to talk about it, because I have a feeling, some kind of premonition, that I was born with a definite purpose. I do not know how all this will end or whether I will die without ever having realized my dreams. I cannot think of a concrete way of realizing my ambitions. I would like to die a decent person and if I did that, I would be thankful."

Nicholas Wapshott



Andrei Tarkovsky: cryptic. Photograph by David Jones

Letter from Salisbury

The edginess is still there

for the Salisbury constituency of Highfields, at which Mr Ian Smith, the President of the Rhodesian Front, harangued the white electorate in the language of UDI Rhodesia, the RF candidate only just scraped in to the House of Assembly ahead of an independent.

But the whites appear edgy and are highly sensitive to change, particularly when it is a cosmetic adjustment involving the country's colonial past. The changing of Jameson Avenue—named after the infamous—Christened Leander Starr Jameson, the trusted errand boy of Rhodes—to Samora Machel Avenue, and of Kingsway to Julius Nyerere Way, outraged whites, many of whom refuse to use the new names. They take little comfort from the fact that Speke, Liv-

ingstone, Gordon and Stanley have retained their place in the geography of Salisbury—although by all accounts of his character the greatest African explorer could well have gone the way of Dr Jameson.

The edginess shows in the speed at which a hot rumour whistles through the suburbs. Last month word spread that Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, was in hospital after being shot by a vengeful Mr Edgar Tekere. The story went the rounds for some days and a later and more lurid version had it that Mr Tekere had been shot dead by Mr Mugabe's bodyguard while attempting to strangle the Prime Minister. Even though both men were later seen in

public, the rumour persisted for some days.

Integration at hotels which were previously able to impose a colour bar has resulted in some incidents, but blacks are tending to avoid such establishments as the pleasantly-situated Terrastane Hotel where young whites have beaten up interlopers at Friday night discotheques.

Mr John Coker, a black BBC producer, was seriously injured in one such assault late last year.

Salisbury is bisected from west to east by a railway line that divides the affluent, mainly white suburbs of Belvedere, Avondale and Borrowdale to the north from the relative poverty of the black townships

of Highfield, Glen Norah and Harare.

Although people in the townships have benefited financially since independence there is some disappointment that advancement has not been greater. Ironically, the departure of thousands of whites since independence has put an ever greater number of blacks out of work as many families employed more than one servant.

Still, there is buoyancy at Harare's St Peter's Church, where refugees from the rural areas sheltered during the war. Father Von Nidda says: "We had a difficult time but that's in the past. The feeling I get from the people around here is that it is time to settle down to enjoy being Zimbabweans."

Through Salisbury's layers of bitterness and frustration it is possible to believe that such optimism is not without justification.

Stephen Taylor

The newcomer to this green and spacious city could be forgiven for reacting with some bewilderment to his first impressions. The flurry of publicity that accompanied the passage of Rhodesia into history and the emergency of Zimbabwe prepared the world for a new order that, nine months later and at least on the surface of things, shows little sign of its existence.

It is still an unwhipped city, untroubled by traffic or pedestrian congestion, where the working day starts at 8 am and the evening rush of the moderately well-heeled home to sundowners on the patio begins at about 4.30. The jacarandas are over but frangipani are making a brilliant show along the roads to the suburbs and after plentiful rain in this, the wet season, the tree-lined avenues are heavy with green.

Whites—and an increasing number of blacks—still gather in the terraces of the city's hotels to be served chilled drinks and food and while



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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CARSON

Events in Ireland in the past few days and weeks present themselves like a continuation of the old newsreels, old speeches and lugubrious commentaries of television's now frequent Irish history lessons. Train robberies in the Republic, murders and attempted murders of politically prominent figures, republican prisoners on hunger strike, off hunger strike, almost on again. And now the coup de théâtre of Mr Paisley and his 500, reliving the roles of Carson and the Ulster Volunteers. The five selected witnesses: the drive through the night with blackened car windows and hooded escort, the Antrim hills in the small hours of the morning, a parade of Ulster's manhood, under discipline, proficient in a new form of military exercise—arms-certificate drill; and the figure of Mr Paisley himself with a classic Irish speech-from-the-dock ready in his pocket.

There is no reason to doubt, for Mr Paisley is careful in these matters, that nothing done that night was contrary to law, and that his own menaces breathed against the Government were sufficiently vague and conditional to fall short of incitement. It can also be presumed that the explanation of the incident has something to do with the local elections in Northern Ireland in three months' time, in those elections the fragments of organized unionism left by the demolition of Stormont will vie with each other for supremacy.

Mr Paisley emerged from the elections to the European parliament in 1979 well ahead of the Unionist field. He sought to consolidate his position by a show of moderation and reasonableness, cooperating with Mr Adams in his search for agreed devolved

institutions. When that fizzled out, he looked vulnerable. Instinct took him smartly back to his original stamping ground of No Surrender. The meeting between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Haughey before Christmas, which issued in a cry of triumph from Mr Haughey and a disinclination on the part of Mrs Thatcher to say anything very much, provided Mr Paisley with the necessary charge to put himself in orbit again. He chose to interpret the Dublin communiqué as proof that the British Government had determined that this part of the United Kingdom is to be betrayed into the hands of its enemies. The rest has followed.

Mr Paisley is in obvious danger of impaling himself, and if he sweeps Ulster Protestant along with him, of impaling Ulster unionism on the loyalists' dilemma. Unionism stands, or has stood since the foundation of the administrative province of Northern Ireland in 1921, for constitutionalism, respect for law and order, loyalty to the Crown, pride in British citizenship, the integrity of the kingdom. It has stood for a number of less rhetorically impeccable things as well, but it is by virtue of those principles that the province remains grappled to Great Britain. Preparations for insurrection, however shadowy, and menaces, however conditional, directed against constitutional authority vitiate the basis of the union which they are invoked to protect. Such threats make those in Britain who entertain feelings of warmth and acknowledge obligations towards the people of Ulster less not more inclined to exert themselves on their behalf.

If Mr Paisley's latest posture prospers it will be because Ulster

Protestants share in some degree his suspicion of the intentions of the British Government. If that suspicion can be removed or weakened Mr Paisley will be left looking foolish and Ulster looking less ungovernable. It is time for the Prime Minister to make her meaning plain. The Dublin communiqué, as variously glossed afterwards by its two signatories, is a document capable of widely differing constructions. Mrs Thatcher has not been willing to elucidate it, beyond repeating the guarantee that there will be no change in the constitutional position of Northern Ireland without the consent of the majority there, and emphasizing that the word governing the most sensitive part of the subject-matter of the joint Anglo-Irish studies is institutional not constitutional.

These are important clarifications, but in the hectic state of Ulster politics they are not nearly enough. Mrs Thatcher has declined to come before the House of Commons to explain either the details of the work to be undertaken by officials of the two governments or the objectives she has in mind for the process that has been initiated. Now the joint study groups have been set up and official silence is maintained about their scope, membership and guidelines. This furtive way of proceeding provokes the question, why all the hiding if there is nothing to hide? It is high time the Government abandoned a reticence that merely feeds suspicion and distrust, and that who bases on it. It should find time with urgency for a full parliamentary debate on its Irish policy in which the Prime Minister herself should participate.

Government stake in Leyland

From Mr Archie Hamilton, MP for Epsom and Ewell (Conservative), and others

Sir, We are very disturbed by Sir Keith Joseph's recent statement (report, January 27) promising another huge transfer of taxpayers' money to British Leyland. We accept that the decision was a difficult one and we are fully aware of the arguments for and against. We acknowledge the remarkable improvement in the motor manufacturing industry under Sir Michael Edwards' direction, and we have great hopes for the commercial success of the Mini Metro. However, we do not consider that the Government should continue any longer to subsidize the industry by such a large sum of money, nor that the taxpayer should carry the whole burden and risk of financing British Leyland.

Furthermore, it cannot be in the interests of the employees to be employed by a group which lurches from crisis to crisis, where their fortunes are subject to the whims of changing governments and ministers, and where their future is far from secure. The ambition of the Government, therefore, must be to return as much of British Leyland as possible to the private sector.

Our impression is that the management do not share this aim. Apparently they would prefer to continue to run a large business and would prefer to maintain complete control of all parts of the BL group.

Accordingly we would like any would-be investors, whether British or foreign, who are interested in taking a stake in any part of British Leyland to contact us. Possible participation could take the form of joint ventures, the outright purchase of all or part of any of the four recently formed subsidiaries of the group, or any other proposal that is commercially sound and in the interests of the shareholders and the employees.

We appeal to anyone who might be interested in such a proposal to contact one of us, or to suggest that we can ensure that their proposals can be passed for consideration to the Secretary of State for Industry. It would be a tragedy if the chance of a British Leyland employee finding a more secure and profitable future in the private sector was to go by default.

Yours, etc,
ARCHIE HAMILTON,
MICHAEL GRILLS,
RAY WHITNEY,
KEITH WICKENDEN,
House of Commons,
February 5.

Sporting Aeschylus

From Sir Desmond Lee, Hon. Treasurer, DESMOND LEE, Hon. Treasurer, PETER V. JONES, Director, Joint Association of Classical Teachers (Greek Project), Department of Classics, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne, February 3.

Sir, Entrants for your competition to celebrate Greece's arrival in the EEC (London Diary, January 27) may be cursing faded memories of prep schools long ago (in the case of the older generation) or, in the case of the younger, regretting that they never had a chance to learn classical Greek in the first place. To both groups we would like to say that the study of Greek in schools, universities and amongst adults has been enormously strengthened over the past few years.

The appeal for money to finance the writing of a new course in ancient Greek, which you so kindly allowed to be launched in your column in January 1974, was very successful and the new course, aimed at introducing mature students and adults quickly to Greek, has been one reason for the current interest in Greek.

Although it may be perhaps a trifling suggestion, a crash course for all those with an eye on the prize of an Olympic holiday for two, Dr Jones will be delighted to send a broadsheet listing some of the widely available weekend, evening, postal and summer courses in Greek, using the new course amongst others, to any of your readers who care to send him a stamped, addressed envelope. As for the competition, as Aeschylus said, τὸ δ' εὐκτατόν.

Yours faithfully,
DESMOND LEE, Hon. Treasurer,
PETER V. JONES, Director,
Joint Association of Classical Teachers (Greek Project),
Department of Classics,
The University,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
February 3.

Planning for growth

From Mr W. P. Bradshaw

Sir, One cannot quarrel with your condemnation (February 3) of the TUC's proposals contained in "A plan for growth in the package deal" which would undoubtedly be inflationary. You seem, however, to fail to distinguish between public spending which feeds into consumption, or simply sustains a growing number of unemployed, and that public spending which would build up our infrastructure and in so doing actually reduce unemployment.

In such cases as railway electrification, modernising our telecommunications network, improving the road system, building nuclear power stations or in the more distant future projects such as the Severn barrage, it is almost inevitable that Government and the nationalised industries must take the lead. You fail to make the essential distinction between meeting the revenue deficits of the nationalised industries, and the role of these organisations, dare we Keynesians say it, of pump-priming as a means of inducing a multiplier effect in United Kingdom industry.

Surely you have been led by the prevailing prejudice against nationalised industries, and perhaps by the poor performance of a few, into ignoring the useful potential they bestow upon Government to stimulate the productive economy and reduce unemployment.

Yours faithfully,
W. P. BRADSHAW,
Springfield House,
Aston Tirrill,
Didcot,
Oxfordshire,
February 4.

The right to British citizenship

From Mr M. V. Summers

Sir, The Nationality Bill has raised fears in many colonial and ex-colonial citizens about their prospects as second-class Britons, and in none more so than the devotedly loyal Falkland Islanders, who have always been fiercely protective of their British status.

They now face the double-edged sword of her Majesty's Government: from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who continue to push them to abandon their sovereignty to Argentina, and from the Home Office, who will now refuse many British citizens the right to return to their homeland should Argentina invade, as Nicholas Ridley only recently threatened on his visit to the Falklands in December, 1980.

Having just returned from the Falklands, I am well aware of the pressure put on the Islanders to accept Mr Ridley's abominable "leaseback" arrangement with Argentina, and the Islanders have in turn shown their mistrust in such proposals by refusing the Foreign and Commonwealth Office permission to pursue this line of discussion.

What the FCO has consistently failed to understand about the Falkland Islanders is that they do not want the massive oil and offshore development revenues they are so glibly assured would be forthcoming if the price to be paid must be the loss of their sovereignty. What Falkland Islanders want is to maintain the status quo—British and in peace. Or can we take it as a gesture of good faith on behalf of the FCO that the Home Office considers it unnecessary to make provision for Islanders to return home?

Yours faithfully,
M. V. SUMMERS,
Flat E,
15 Brechin Place, SW7.

From Mr Roger Sims, MP for Chislehurst (Conservative)

Sir, The Nationality Bill has been widely misrepresented by many people, and I am sure you can guess at. But there are others who have simply misunderstood what the Bill proposes. The Reverend R. W. H. Nind, for example, in his letter

Way ahead in Ireland

From Mr David Morrison

Sir, Professor Cornelius O'Leary (January 16) says that it is misleading to state that "a majority of both communities here is satisfied with direct rule from Westminster", a statement he attributes to me in an article of December 29. In fact I did not say that: to be precise I said that "direct rule is acceptable to both sides of the community".

There is ample poll evidence for this. For example, the NOP survey in 1976 found that direct rule was acceptable to 72 per cent of Protestants and 79 per cent of Catholics. Furthermore mass demonstrations against it are noticeable by their absence, and have been for many years. I do not, as you do not understand how Professor Bernard Crick (letter, January 20) arrived at the conclusion that "many people" here "believe that almost anything is better than the present" political arrangements. Professor O'Leary also says that I ignored the finding of the Moxon-Browne survey in which 35.5 per cent of those polled chose power-sharing devolved government as "the most workable and acceptable" option out of a range of theoretical options presented to

Editorial prerogatives

From Sir Robert Lusty

Sir, It appears that *Panorama* "journalists" are publicly protesting against an editorial decision by the BBC's Director General, Sir Ian Trethowan (report, January 31), is an act of censorship.

They need to be reminded that their editorial prerogatives are above all his other responsibilities, the BBC's chief editor. It is his inescapable responsibility and he is there to assert it.

A most dangerous misconception of our time is that any editorial requirement should be almost automatically regarded as "censorship", which is a very different kettle of fish and never to be condoned. It is not even necessary to know the facts of the matter, but unless an editor is permitted to exercise his personal editorial authority then communicative chaos will result and the whole operation become totally suspect.

Heritage in danger

From Mr J. S. Curl

Sir, The reason why the nation's heritage of historic buildings is in peril is that it is being taken for granted as a vote-catcher, so it is felt that ludicrously meagre funds can be cut further, and the stock of historic buildings put in jeopardy. With no political damage to the Conservative Party, this concern took over the Taunton-Minehead line after it was closed by British Rail. Because a handful of men operating a bus service between Minehead and Taunton belong to a railway union the local trains have to stop at Bishop's Lydeard; they may not effect the short run to the junction and Taunton.

British Rail would welcome the junction, providing opportunities for lucrative holiday excursions to Minehead and Butlin's by through trains.

Junction held up

From Mr Cecil Nurcombe

Sir, The threat of trade union domination at national level is manifest on a small scale in the affairs of the West Somerset Railway. This concern took over the Taunton-Minehead line after it was closed by British Rail. Because a handful of men operating a bus service between Minehead and Taunton belong to a railway union the local trains have to stop at Bishop's Lydeard; they may not effect the short run to the junction and Taunton.

British Rail would welcome the junction, providing opportunities for lucrative holiday excursions to Minehead and Butlin's by through trains.

of February 4 is wrong in two important respects.

Mr Nind says that "the status of British subject is to be abolished" and with it will go the right to vote, to work in the Civil Service, and the responsibility to be on jury service". In fact these rights are not affected by the Bill.

Mr Nind further suggests that those with "right of abode" in the United Kingdom will be safe "presumably as future guest-workers, not citizens". In fact the Bill provides that, with the exception of one small group of people who will acquire the same citizenship as their mothers, citizens of the United Kingdom and colonies who now have the right of abode will become British citizens; and that Commonwealth citizens who are not citizens of the United Kingdom and colonies but who now have the right of abode will become British citizens; and that Commonwealth citizens who are not citizens of the United Kingdom and colonies but who now have the right of abode will become British citizens; and that Commonwealth citizens who are not citizens of the United Kingdom and colonies but who now have the right of abode will become British citizens.

These are important aspects of the Government's proposals and your readers should not be under any misapprehension about them.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER SIMS,
House of Commons.

From Mr E. D. Graham

Sir, Your correspondent Mr McSheehy (February 2) quotes a letter from the Home Office re received stating that "the law is the law and that the only means open to him was to make an application for United Kingdom citizenship".

Fortunately the position is not as gloomy as that. Mr James Hugh Maxwell obtained naturalisation in 1975 by a personal Bill, which was passed by both Houses of Parliament without opposition. His circumstances, as I recall, were analogous to Mr McSheehy's.

Admittedly the previous Bill of this kind was Lord Acton's Nationality Act, 1931, but the procedure is shown to be available as a last resort.

Yours faithfully,
E. D. GRAHAM,
Brooks's,
St James's, SW1.

them. I ignored it because it has no conceivable relevance to practical politics: power-sharing devolved government, involving as it does an enforced coalition between the SDLP (Social Democratic Labour Party) and the DUP (Democratic Unionist Party), will never come about, let alone provide a workable system of government in the long term.

The Moxon-Browne survey did not investigate the acceptability of otherwise of direct rule but it did discover a remarkable unanimity between Protestants and Catholics on the desirability of applying Westminster legislation to Northern Ireland, which shows that the demand for a separate lawmaking body is non-existent.

I see no reason to change the conclusions of my article on December 29 that Northern Ireland is inherently unsuitable for devolution, which would merely help to maintain politics on Protestant/Catholic lines as it did from 1922 to 1974, and that the development of alternative non-sectarian politics on social and economic lines is impossible unless the Labour and Conservative parties organize in the province.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID MORRISON,
Belfast, 15,
February 2.

If a "journalist" (who is not an editor) feels he has been "censored" for some irresponsible motive, he must file a disclosure statement entirely from the organization he thinks responsible. The decision of the editor must meanwhile be regarded as final, but, if later it can be shown that he has imposed an unreasonable "censorship" for his editorial prerogatives, he is no longer entitled to the respect of the journalists under his editorial control, nor by the organization which has appointed him.

It may not be an easy distinction, but for editorial judgment to be regarded as denuded as "censorship" is as dangerous a fallacy as present-day attitudes have yet devised.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LUSTY,
The Old Silk Mill,
Blackley,
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire,
February 2.

destruction of part of Alfred Waterhouse's masterpiece (once more demonstrate the essential philistinism in the top echelons of the Government).

The Conservative Party (which should clearly change its name as it is anything but conservative where historic buildings are concerned) can expect no support in future from any political damage to the Conservative Party, this concern took over the Taunton-Minehead line after it was closed by British Rail. Because a handful of men operating a bus service between Minehead and Taunton belong to a railway union the local trains have to stop at Bishop's Lydeard; they may not effect the short run to the junction and Taunton.

I am, Sir, your anguished and still obedient servant,
JAMES STEVENS CURL,
5 Clifton Terrace,
Winchester,
Hampshire,
January 31.

But the convenience of the people in West Somerset and profitable railway schemes are subordinated to the prospects of a few bus drivers.

The West Somerset trials provide a useful lesson to the nation: the enforced terminus at Taunton station and beyond to the city centre, returning their passengers at a convenient hour to their train standing at Bishop's Lydeard.

Last week I passed the Minehead-Taunton bus near Williton. It carried three passengers!
Yours faithfully,
CECIL NURCOMBE,
Egypt,
Faint Cross,
Wychet,
Somerset,
February 3.

Coming revolution in employment

From Mr Sid Cumberland

Sir, Mr Len Murray is quite right to call for a re-examination of our notions of employment and non-employment, retirement and the pattern of the working week, for, as he says, "These are the great issues facing our country" (article, February 3). Yet his references to "the ugly and painful running race of the unemployed" and "the hundreds of thousands of others who have been condemned to short-time working" show that he is subject, like most of us, to the rigid conventional view he condemns.

All our major political parties (and the emerging social democrats) find one aspect of unemployment rate appalling: none of our leading politicians seems to have the slightest idea of the impact microtechnology is about to have on our society. Four times as many people work on the conventional assembly line as on the new robot and computer-assisted Metro line; imagine that ratio applied to all our manufacturing industry. Imagine Fleet Street with its press workers, imagine offices with no secretaries, no filing clerks, no typists. Imagine shops with no check-out girls, banks with no cashiers, public transport with no ticket sellers and collectors, all repetitive mechanical tasks will be subject to increasing automation and we will have to share the remaining work between us. Are the unions going to insist that the Government create boring routine jobs for their members? Are the politicians going to promise full employment, which it will be beyond their power to deliver? Can we persuade the Government to invest in our long-term future as 1975 by a personal Bill, like BL, BSC, and North Sea Oil? Can we remove the stigma from unemployment? Can we become a work-sharing society with our working lives characterized by regular retraining and long periods without work?

Sir Kenneth Corley (Business News letter, January 28) puts the point thus: "Today's problem is to discover how we are going to share work, share leisure, get more work done, raise our production of wealth and live a better life."

The change is coming, and its effect on our society will be profound. We can resist change for a few years, until more and more cheap imports depress our domestic economy. Or we can accept change and start educating ourselves and our children for the future. If we do not control the revolution, it will eventually control us.

Yours faithfully,
SID CUMBERLAND,
39 Ridgeway,
Epsom,
Surrey,
February 4.

Labour Party leadership

From Professor Sir Max Beloff, FBA

Sir, As a political scientist—a class of person held in contempt by Mr Peter Jay (column, February 2)—may I be forgiven for pointing out that the question of Labour Party leadership question follows closely (no doubt unconsciously) an article of my own published in *The Daily Telegraph* some months ago. He is of course correct in minimizing the alleged dangers of the electoral college procedure taken by itself. But it should be taken along with "mandatory reselection", "loyalty pledges" and the other instruments chosen by Mr Benn and his associates to "revise our constitutional system along the lines of the 'people's democracies' which provide their inspiration."

In present circumstances I dare say that even Mr Bahrk Karmali, the latest hero of the Labour left, could get a vote of confidence from the Labour Party—supposing there were one.

Yours truly,
MAX BELOFF,
Rearm Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
February 2.

The underhand ball

From Mr P. S. Cotes

Sir, Could not the unfortunate incident at Sydney Airport, February 31, have been averted by the Umpire calling a "ball"—clause 13 of law 42 of the Laws of Cricket (1980) Code refer? Surely under these circumstances an umpire would have been excused for using his initiative?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
P. S. COTES,
94 Old Dover Road,
Canterbury,
Kent,
February 3.

From Mr Guy Heslop

Sir, In his inestimable book, *Fallow On*, E. W. Swanton refers to the fourth Baron Harris, a formidable Lord's figure, "playing against the Philadelphians and having recourse to underarm 'sneaks' in order to save the game".

Yours sincerely,
GUY HESLOP,
Foxley Cottage,
Selston Road,
South Croxson,
Surrey,
February 4.

Fugitive memory

From Mr J. P. Smith

Sir, Futile as it may be to argue with a dead author (as it sometimes is with a live one), there is no reason why the record cannot be put in order. In his piece on Venice (Saturday Review, January 31), Henry Green states twice, quite incorrectly, that Marcel Proust never visited that city.

Like the narrator of *A la recherche du temps perdu* (in the volume entitled *La fugitive*) Proust indeed did travel there, accompanied by his mother, in May, 1900. There even exists a photograph of the howler-hatted novelist contemplating the gondolas, looking remarkably like Charlie Chaplin in a state of repose.

Yours sincerely,
J. P. SMITH,
67 Cherry Hinton Road,
Cambridge.

Youth and arts cuts

From Mr Michael Croft

Sir, I hope that Sir Charles Groves's plea (February 2) for support for the National Youth Orchestra will be quickly answered, but I think he is mistaken in addressing it to the Government. It is not the Government but the Arts Council which has withdrawn support from the Youth Orchestras and from other youth organizations, including the National Youth Theatre.

These cuts have prompted widespread criticism. But I suspect that the Arts Council has decided upon them for some time, realizing that the Government intended to increase its grant-aid by the unexpectedly high figure of £10m (14 per cent up on last year).

The letter I received from Sir Roy Shaw in reply to an application for subsidy for the NYTOB this year seems to support this assumption: "We shall be losing subsidy," said Sir Roy, "to an extent which would not make it possible to give your company and many others at your level of subsidy any uplift at all."

Indeed our ability to find for the NYTOB any funds at all next year is virtually out of our hands. If this prospect is appalling to you, I suggest your reactions should be addressed to the minister himself.

The letter was dated November 10, a month before the Government increase was announced. The rapidity with which the cuts were then made on the basis of the unexpected increase clearly suggests that the Arts Council had determined to get rid of its lowlier customers, come what may.

Many people wonder why the youth organizations should have been discarded since the total sum spent upon them this year was less than £40,000. May I explain, therefore, that the Arts Council were wished to support these organizations in the first place, since the Professional Advisory Panels for Music and Drama resented the use of Arts Council funds for amateur organizations?

Their position was overcome in 1967 when Miss Jennie Lee, as Minister for the Arts, obtained support for the National Youth Orchestra and later, in 1969, when

Lord Goodman, as chairman, did the same for the National Youth Theatre. To circumvent the opposition, however, the Arts Council, under Lord Goodman, funded the youth organizations from a new sector called Education in the Arts, since when the old "professional" argument withered away. It is amazing that it should now be revived with destructive consequences, at a time when educationalists Sir Roy Shaw and Dr Richard Hogart occupy positions of major influence within the Arts Council.

But the Arts Council's educational policy now seems in total disarray. The reason given for axing the youth organizations is contained in the council's press announcement of December 19 last: "The council's primary duty is to support professional work." Yet only last October the Arts Council's Education Bulletin declared: "The educational duty is almost one half of the responsibility laid upon the Arts Council by royal charter."

"Please note," the bulletin adds, "that 'practice' is not restricted to 'professional practice'."

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CROFT, Director,
National Youth Theatre of Great Britain,
Shaw Theatre,
100 Euston Road, NW1,
February 4.

Places at the Lord's table

From Mr Patrick Burgess

Sir, With some two thirds of Catholics now marrying non-Catholics what was simply a matter of principle (understandably not a primary issue to those not directly facing it) has become a pastoral imperative. For the Roman Catholic Church's discipline on admission to Holy Communion is causing real pain at the heart of the Christian community.

First, reduced to bare essentials, this discipline insists that only those who are in a state of grace may receive the Eucharist. Secondly, of those involved, the practice of exclusion seems un-

christian in any but a very attenuated form of logic, and, when set against the example and nature of Christ, the extraordinary unlike him. But thirdly and most importantly, there is clearly nothing intrinsically wrong with such admission, since given the proper dispositions, Vatican II (and earlier practice) allowed the admission of non-Catholics in special circumstances. Should discipline be applied at the heart of families, when what it forbids is not wrong?

As a first step, an extension of the present rule to embrace mixed marriages must be justified, though many of us would argue for a wider admission than that.

The pastoral implications of the rule are also not particularly edifying. Some in practice ignore it, or turn a blind eye, arguing for "cultural lag", that the Church's full perception is simply 15 or 20 years behind what others have realized. Some say that Rome (philosophical) laws bite differently from English (born of experience) common law. Others, while unhappy, feel obliged to comply. To the English mind, unofficial solutions seem spelt by dishonesty, yet adherence to the official position seems equally unfortunate. No Christians should be faced with this kind of dilemma.

The rule undoubtedly mars the image of the Church and its apostolate, as well as the unity and harmony of families. Order is needed, but order is the servant, not the maker, of God's realm of love. Would Christ turn Christians away? Will we sit at different heavenly banquets?

There are families thus divided. They live and create new life together, but may not meet their Lord in the "banquet of His sacrifice" because discipline (no more) says they may not. In the instant of proclaiming Christ's death, are we expected to wound his body further, if that were possible, by such rejection of baptized people. Is there not a real urgency, above discussions, for all of us, to repair this situation?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK BURGESS,
5 Cottenham Park Road,
Wimbledon, SW20.

SPORT

Rugby Union



Slattery should get them somewhere in this mood: the Irish captain will have to be in full cry against France.

Rain will bring out green dervishes

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

There have been suggestions that the Irish should beat France in Dublin this afternoon as a prelude to what might be their most successful season since 1974, when Willie McBride led them to their first championship outright in 25 years. There is talk, even though Ireland have to meet Wales in Cardiff, of their first triple crown since the palmy era of Jackie Kyle.

The modest Irish rugby fraternity, ever fearful when their team is installed as favourites, view all such predictions with the direct suspicion, and its hierarchy have been over-keen to introduce a realistic note on caution. The coach, Tony Kieran, is content that his team should win their opening game before they start thinking about the next encounter. The chairman of selectors, Paddy Magan, has said that France already have a victory under their belts, 16-9 over Scotland, and that the odds at the start of the international game are roughly 50-50.

They both also point to the fact that their Irish side is different in six positions from the one that handed over to Wales at Lansdowne Road last March and so closed the season on a distinctly euphoric note. Nonetheless, it is not easy as it has been too often in the past to detect a point of weakness in their latest combination.

The Irish had their last training spin yesterday afternoon, at the Old Belvedere ground, when the

belief was ventilated that their side is as fit and as well prepared as any they have fielded for some years. It includes Moss Keane and Phil Orr, respectively winning their third and fourth consecutive caps, the captain, Fergus Slattery, now making a forty-sixth appearance for his country, and Willie Duggan, who has never enjoyed the reputation of being a fitness fanatic but whose restoration at No 8 has

inspired him to train with rare enthusiasm.

With a powerful front five and plenty of strength and knowhow on the fringes these Irish forwards seem well capable of looking after themselves in tight and loose. There will be a bouncy contest at the scrum, since France this season have brought back some much-needed muscle at lock in the person of Imbernon and the burly Revaller.

France are said to be bent on releasing the pace and skills of their wings, Blanco and Pardo, but, if they are to do so, their centres are likely to be confronted by a chilly evening, and, for such a firm, a small crowd, and it served them right.

Gloucester, who by a try and a penalty goal to nothing, the foundation of their strength was their forwards, who were dominant in all phases, especially in lineout possession.

Today's teams at Lansdowne Road

Ireland	France
H. P. MacNeill (15)	S. Cabernet (15)
F. P. Quinn (14)	S. Blanc (14)
D. G. Irwin (13)	R. Bertranne (13)
P. J. McNamee (12)	D. G. Gifford (12)
A. C. McLean (11)	L. Pardo (11)
S. O. Campbell (10)	G. Laporte (10)
P. O. O'Brien (9)	P. Berthier (9)
P. A. Orr (8)	P. Dospital (8)
P. O. O'Brien (7)	P. Dospital (7)
M. P. Fitzpatrick (6)	P. Dospital (6)
M. J. Keane (5)	P. Dospital (5)
J. O. Foley (4)	P. Dospital (4)
J. O. Foley (3)	P. Dospital (3)
J. O. Foley (2)	P. Dospital (2)
J. O. Foley (1)	P. Dospital (1)

Scotland's only hope is to live dangerously

By Richard Streeton

There are comforting signs for Scotland to clutch before playing Wales today at Murrayfield. Wins in 1973 and 1975 on the same ground represent their only victories in the last 12 matches between the sides. For Wales, the game should indicate the team's performance but it is a moot point whether Scotland will be able to exploit them.

If Scotland's tactics against France on the same day in Paris were any criteria, it had already been deemed not politic to gamble by allowing the notoriously dangerous Scottish backs to run the ball from the start. Such a brave approach might be contrary to accepted practice, but it could represent Scotland's only realistic chance of success.

Without more physical presence in the forwards, Scotland is certainly not going to end their losing streak by a conventional approach, either. There was talk afterwards in Paris that the French pack first had to be subdued in order to create a platform before the backs could open up the game. The first part of the plan proved impossible to accomplish, the second automatically became a non-starter.

The Scottish back line, even poor against France and even

when touch was found the initiative was surrendered by ineffectual failures. The penny never dropped: there were some brave counter-attacks by individuals in the second half but few concerted attacking moves of the sort that had helped Scotland mount some splendid closing rallies, albeit in losing causes, over recent seasons.

Hay's lack of speed remains a liability in attack (though there is never anything wrong with his tackling) but elsewhere behind the scrum there are several players who could give the Welsh midfield defence a thorough searching.

Wales are unchanged after that unsatisfactory win against Eng-

land, when the close-scoring and exciting finish tended to disguise what overall had been a mediocre match. There was little creative changes in it. One gathers there is a feeling that the full committee in a fortnight's time should make a clear-cut decision on the report's main feature calls for a comprehensive system of leagues throughout England, largely by promotion and relegation at all levels.

Today's teams at Murrayfield

Scotland	Wales
A. R. Irvine (15)	J. P. R. Williams (15)
S. MacGregor (14)	R. A. Ackerman (14)
J. M. Kenwick (13)	D. S. Richards (13)
K. W. Robertson (12)	S. P. Fenwick (12)
B. H. Hay (11)	D. Nicholson (11)
R. J. Laidlaw (10)	W. G. Davies (10)
R. J. Laidlaw (9)	D. Nicholson (9)
R. J. Laidlaw (8)	D. Nicholson (8)
R. J. Laidlaw (7)	D. Nicholson (7)
R. J. Laidlaw (6)	D. Nicholson (6)
R. J. Laidlaw (5)	D. Nicholson (5)
R. J. Laidlaw (4)	D. Nicholson (4)
R. J. Laidlaw (3)	D. Nicholson (3)
R. J. Laidlaw (2)	D. Nicholson (2)
R. J. Laidlaw (1)	D. Nicholson (1)

Motor racing

Front row for Reutemann after spinning off track

Kyalami, Feb. 6.—Nelson Piquet, of Brazil, claimed pole position for tomorrow's South African Grand Prix when he recorded the fastest official practice time in his Brabham today. Second in last season's drivers' championship, he improved his time over the first official practice yesterday by 0.16 sec to register 1 min. 12.78sec for the 2.5km track.

Joining him on the front row of the grid tomorrow will be Carlos Reutemann in a Williams. The Argentine spun off the track earlier today and did not take part in official practice, but his time of 1:12.96 yesterday was good enough to determine his position at the front of the start.

His car was not damaged much and mechanics said he was a definite starter. Alan Jones, the world champion from Australia, in the other Williams, also improved his timing yesterday by clocking 1:13.28 to secure a place on the second row. Rain interrupted today's final official practice and Jones was unable to return to the track, this time using wet-weather tyres.

The race is being boycotted by several teams, including Ferrari, Alfa Romeo, Ligier and Renault, because of the dispute between the British-based Formula One Constructors' Association (FOCA) and

the International Motor Sport Federation (FISA). The latter have said that the race cannot count for world championship points.

Only 19 drivers will be taking part tomorrow, compared with the usual 24. One of three making their first grand prix appearance is Desiré Wilson, of South Africa. She spun her Tyrrell in the morning unofficial run after having done so twice during yesterday's practice. She escaped unscathed and no damage was done to her car. She is on the second-last row of the grid with a time of 1:15.56.

FINAL PRACTICE: 1. N. Piquet (Brabham), 1:12.78; 2. C. Reutemann (Williams), 1:12.96; 3. A. Jones (Williams), 1:13.28; 4. D. Wilson (Tyrrell), 1:15.56; 5. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 6. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 7. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 8. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 9. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 10. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 11. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 12. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 13. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 14. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 15. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 16. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 17. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 18. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 19. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00; 20. J. S. Stewart (Tyrrell), 1:16.00.

Hockey

Bromley hope to profit from home advantage

By Sydney Friskin

The temporary headquarters of the Hockey Association tomorrow will be Bromley, where the results of the eight matches in the second round of the National Club Championship, sponsored by Rank Xerox, will be collated. The home side themselves have a tough match against Westcliff, leaders of the East League Premier Division, starting at 2 p.m.

Westcliff took their unbeaten league run to 22 games with their 6-0 victory over Broxbourne last Saturday and need only one point from today's away game against Bromley to win the title for the third successive year. They go to Bromley with a team which includes Bond, Holmes, Anderson and French, all of whom were deeply involved in that 6-0 win.

Bromley are not doing particularly well in the London League, where they hold 17th position with a percentage of only 36.46, but they are a good cup side and on home ground could set Westcliff a few problems.

After playing London University at home in the London League today Slough, the champions, will move on to the more rural surroundings of Groesdale Farm to play Nottingham.

Ice skating

Britons bring down iron curtain

From John Hennessy
Lansdowne, Feb. 6

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, of Nottingham, gave a dazzling exhibition of ice dancing last night to regain the European title for Britain for the first time since the heady days of Diane Towler and Bernard Ford in the 1950s.

Only once in all that time has the Soviet Union's hold on the championship been prised open, by a German couple in 1972. It can hardly be a coincidence that the German's triumph, though, like the British couple's now, was won by Betty Callaway. Not that the Hungarian couple who ended the Soviet Union's domination of the world championship last year were trained by Callaway. Then, as then, was her night as well as her talented pupils.

The silver medals were won by the dramatic Irina Moiseyeva and her husband, Andrei Minin, former world champions, and the bronze by the Russian compatriots, Natalia Lushchik and Genadi Karponosov, former world champions and reigning European and Olympic champions. The second British couple, Karen Barber and Nicholas Slater, finished fifth and the third, Wendy Sessions and Stephen Williams, placed seventh.

The first appearance in this company, it was an exciting all-round British performance. One judge, from the Soviet

Advocates of change can hardly expect Liverpool to be in favour

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Had the original ardour that greeted last October's Football League seminar proposals been sustained, this week-end would have been viewed by some as the eve of a football revolution. Time has spawned second thoughts and Monday's extraordinary meeting is now expected to have the game turning somersaults in its anxiety for change.

Even at the time it seemed too optimistic for John Camlin, the secretary and managers and coaches' association chief executive, to speak of his "astonishment" at the unique achievement of having a meeting of this kind. It is a few of the proposals go forward it will show evidence of willingness to face the problems, but it is undeniable that the only one that can alter the way the game is played should be reconsidered. The suggestions for altering the league system is well intended but hold no guarantee of improving the appeal of the professional game.

Liverpool's situation at the top of the first division could be used to throw light on the subject to be considered on Monday. It is unwise to project the current league standings into a hypothetical table in which a system of three zones for the top and one for a draw is used, simply because the teams are not now playing for the title. If they were, Liverpool would probably feel even less confident of catching Ipswich and Aston Villa. A margin of points would be expected to be a more dampening psychological effect on the champions than the four points, which currently separate them from the runners-up.

The convinced advocates of change might argue that Liverpool were merely being punished for drawing in many matches.

For the moment Liverpool would not expect premature sympathy. After all, they are still in the Cup, League Cup and, at worst, may have to play in the

Uefa Cup next season. Many would welcome such a situation, but it is all comparative and today Liverpool know that defeat at Wolves in Birmingham will bring melancholy tales of fallen heroes. One of them, McDermott, has already been cast aside. Albion, who slipped from Liverpool's shoulder last week when losing at Wolverhampton will wish to forget their 4-0 defeat at Anfield last September when they were to dwell on signs of decline in the opposition.

Liverpool's reputation for avoiding injuries has flown. Dalglish and Alan Kennedy, who are unavailable, have been joined by Thompson, the central defender, who has a thigh strain. Hansen, out of action since Boxing Day at a considerable cost to the team's defensive construction work, returns but McDermott and Cohen are dropped. Albion's problems are a different nature with their manager, Ron Atkinson, again changing the attack, bringing back Deshaun in preference to Mills.

Having seen Liverpool lose their home record to Leicester City last week, Ipswich Town should beware predictions of a walk-over against the bottom club at Crystal Palace. The possible absence of the Ipswich defence of Mills and Thompson, who have been beaten since by a debutant, and the new manager, Darío Gradi, says that for the moment he wants to concentrate on his own defence rather than the attack. Even if Palace achieve a draw one point will seem insufficient reward, as Cannon and Seely suspect, and next Thursday Gilbert, Lovell and Cannon all go before the FA disciplinary committee.

As Liverpool attempt to stay with Ipswich could be threatened by a visit to Everton who are the only team to have won at Villa in many matches. The hope that McNaught, that staunch defender, will play despite 10 stitches in a cut above the knee. The suspension of McMahon forces Everton to call in Magson who thus fights

for a place in the team for next Saturday's FA Cup tie at Southampton.

A cup tie is also on the minds of Coventry City who play West Ham United on Tuesday night in the semi-final round of the League Cup. The manager, Gordon Allnace, said that all Coventry's eyes are on Wolverhampton Wanderers who would come under a critical eye. West Ham want to win at Shrewsbury without Alan Smith, who has a younger manager, Stuart Gray, a chance to move off the substitutes bench.

A week of unpleasant rumours about the future of the Manchester United manager, Dave Sexton, should end with a successful result at Leicester, but after the event, as Arsenal's next week's outcome is by no means certain. Naturally Leicester make no changes while United are again deprived of McDermott from defence. Janovic, who has proved more elegant than reliable, regains his place.

Swimming

Stacey makes impact in senior ranks

From Athol Still
Paris, Feb. 6

David Stacey, a gangling 15-year-old from Norwich, is the latest young British swimmer to make a fluent transition into senior international competition. He was named as the sixth overall in the 1,500 metres free-style during the opening session of the annual Arena meeting here, where he was only 0.57 of a second behind the British senior record of Steven Lewington (Britany).

But the manner in which he courageously attacked this most gruelling event (he led his heat for 800 metres and then broke him a most deserved British senior record (8 min 55.11 sec) won comfortably from her teammate (United States) in the respectable time of 8 min 55.11 sec. She won (United States) but had the ad-

Tennis

Gerulaitis upset by Nastase's best behaviour

Toronto, Feb. 6.—Vitas Gerulaitis joined John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors and Bjorn Borg, of Sweden, in the semi-final round of the \$100,000 Molson tournament last night.

Gerulaitis gained an uninspiring 6-2, 6-2 victory over Ilie Nastase. The Romanian veteran appeared to want to pacify the spectators at Maple Leaf Gardens for his exhibition on Wednesday night when he was disqualified in a match against McEnroe. He followed all the ethics of good tennis to the point of infuriating Gerulaitis.

Earlier yesterday, Borg took rounds and a half to beat Wojtek Fibak of Poland, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3, Connors beat Sandy Mayer, 6-4, 6-2, and McEnroe beat John McEwen, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

McEnroe and Kriek darted around the court, forcing each other into numerous errors in a highly competitive match. The games in a row and trailing 4-3 in the open set, McEnroe won the successive games to win the set. The 21-year-old left-handed struggled in the final two games though, when he disputed some calls and then lost the match by comments from the crowd. "I think the people of Toronto are riding me," McEnroe said. "Half the people out there just wanted to bother me."

Connors and Mayer played a much calmer match with Connors winning the first set, in the second set, Connors broke twice for a 4-0 lead before exchanging breaks with Mayer for the 6-2 victory.

RESULTS: J. Connors (USA) beat V. Gerulaitis (USA), 6-2, 6-2; J. McEnroe (USA) beat J. McEwen (AUS), 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; B. Borg (SWE) beat W. Fibak (POL), 6-3, 5-7, 6-3; J. Connors (USA) beat S. Mayer (USA), 6-4, 6-2; J. McEnroe (USA) beat J. McEwen (AUS), 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

Rugby League

St Helens put Nicholls on transfer list

By Keith Macklin

With the Challenge Cup deadline falling at noon on Monday several names have suddenly appeared on the transfer list. One of the most startling, and perhaps the saddest, is that of George Nicholls, St Helens' international forward. It is both surprising and sad because the decision was made by the club and not at the instigation of the player in his testimonial year.

The St Helens secretary, Geoff Sutcliffe, said the club had put Nicholls on the list reluctantly at the request of the players who refused to play in the front row.

Others on the list are: Steve Diamond, the Welsh goal-kicking centre from Wakefield Trinity, at £20,000; Terry Bilsbury, the Leigh centre, £25,000; Norman Taylor, a Leeds forward, £10,000; and John Taylor, the Widnes half back, £5,000.

Yesterday three clubs—Salford, Huddersfield and Rochdale—were pursuing Charlie Birdwood, the experienced Hull forward, who is available for £6,000.

In an innovative programme the outstanding game at Wakefield, where Warrington, at full strength, entertain Hull Kingston Rovers and the Leeds Rhinos in a battle: Widdowsport spectators will remember that recent contests between these two rivals have been notable for their violence.

A crucial second division game will take place at Swinton, where Fulham are the visitors. Although the match is being generally regarded as a draw, it is expected that Craven Cottage over next week's Challenge Cup tie against the first division club, Wakefield Trinity, will be a high-scoring affair. The league is more important at the moment. We are over-proud if we are going to clinch promotion and the game at Swinton is a four-pointer."

Golf

Trevino falters to give fresh hope to McNulty

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Feb. 6

The \$25,000 Sun City classic tournament at the Bophuthatsane Golf Club in South Africa developed into a duel between Lee Trevino and Mark McNulty, one of South Africa's leading young golfers. After the third round today both were on 208, and three strokes clear of the nearest challenger, Bernard Langer of West Germany.

Trevino, who set a course record with a dazzling 64 yesterday, looked like holding his four-stroke overnight lead when he went out in 55. Then he struck disaster at the par-five 11th when he hit a tree and his ball landed in a bunker. He finished with seven for the hole.

McNulty, who almost dropped out of the tournament this morning because of pain from a swollen knee, again played steadily in spite of a windy day, finishing with four birdies in his 68—the day's best score.

LEADING SCORES: (South African money) 1. Trevino (GB), 70, 64, 72, 68; 2. McNulty (USA), 71, 65, 71, 69; 3. Langer (FRG), 72, 66, 73, 71; 4. P. Price (USA), 73, 67, 74, 71; 5. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 6. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 7. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 8. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 9. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 10. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 11. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 12. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 13. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 14. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 15. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 16. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 17. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 18. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 19. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71; 20. J. B. Baker (GB), 74, 70, 71, 71.

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets
FT Ind 480.3 up 8.3
FT Gilts 69.30 down 0.03

Sterling
\$2340 up 35 points
Index 103.8 down 0.3

Dollar
Index 59.3 up 0.4
DM 2.1387 down 93 pts

Gold
\$502.50 up \$11

Money
3 month sterling 13.13-13.14
3 month Euro-S 17.17-17.18
6 month Euro-S 17.16-17.17

Bill to clear way
for public stake
in BNOC likely
next weekBy Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

A Bill to allow the public to invest directly in state-owned interests in North Sea oil fields is expected to be introduced to Parliament next week.

It will give the Secretary of State for Energy powers both to offer shares in the government-owned British National Oil Corporation (BNOC), which was set up by Labour to safeguard the nation's North Sea oil interests, and to issue a loan stock linked to fields in which BNOC has a stake.

Some £500m worth of loan stock or "revenue bonds" are to be issued as soon as possible. Small denomination bonds will be available, probably through Post Offices, and National Savings Institutions to attract a wide cross-section of the public as possible.

Issuing of shares is more problematical. The revenue bonds were invented as a compromise to meet the Government's desire to roll back the frontiers of state enterprise and avoid the political and practical difficulties in offering shares in state industry controlling a vital strategic national resource. They confer no voting rights and leave government fully in control of the oil company.

An issue of shares, even a minority, involves a change in the nature of control. Government's ability to use BNOC as a tool to control the depletion of oil resources could be lessened. Once a public mine had existed, BNOC's board could plead that the rights of its shareholders were being interfered with, if the Government were to ask it to act in any way which ran counter to its direct commercial interest.

As a result, the Bill will give the Secretary of State broad enabling powers to sell equity in the corporation. But there will be no limit on the amount that can be sold off, provided an acceptable scheme is produced.

It has been assumed in political circles that the enabling powers are merely a sop to backbench Conservative opinion which believed that the BNOC should never have been set up, and should be sold off to the public as fast as possible.

The chances are that no equity sale will be made in this Parliament, but detailed work has been done to allow it to take place.

Philip Shelbourne, BNOC's chairman, favours an equity sale. Some ministers believe this might be possible, although it is pointed out that it would depend on economic conditions and the state of the stock market.

At best, however, such a sale is two years away, putting it perilously close to the next election when it could be used as strong political capital by opposition parties. Should an equity sale go ahead, a 25 per cent stake is expected to be offered initially.

The Bill would end the National Oil Account, through which all revenues to and from the corporation have passed. BNOC would become a more conventional nationalised industry, with a mixture of public dividend capital and loan stocks—probably in equal proportions.

Government revenues from BNOC will come from payments of petroleum tax, the planned supplementary petroleum revenue tax and corporation tax, in line with payments from private sector companies.

Company's new president refutes speculation of run down in its British car production

General Motors to invest £75m in Vauxhall

By Peter Waymark

General Motors reaffirmed yesterday that it had no intention of withdrawing from car and truck production in Britain. Its Vauxhall subsidiary will continue to build and sell vehicles and components "as far into the future as the case".

Mr James McDonald, president of the General Motors American parent company, said in London yesterday. "Mr McDonald, who succeeded Mr Elliot Esces as number two in the GM hierarchy on February 1, refuted speculation that GM might pull out of Britain or reduce Vauxhall to an assembly operation."

Mr McDonald announced a £75m investment programme for Vauxhall over the next three

years "to produce new products at every one of our manufacturing locations".

But he gave a warning that future investment must be based on the success of the United Kingdom operations and the support of all elements of the workforce. He said the return on investment and productivity at Vauxhall had been disappointing.

He confirmed that production of two Vauxhall cars would start in Britain this year: a new front-wheel drive medium saloon, code-named the J car, would be built at Luton, and the Astra, which so far has been imported from the Continent, at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.

Mr McDonald would not specify the proportion of British content. Both cars were designed by Opel, GM's German subsidiary, and to start with are expected to use mainly German components including engines and transmissions.

As other examples of GM investment in Britain, Mr

McDonald mentioned new truck assembly facilities at Dunstable, a new components plant at Bedford and tooling up for new or redesigned components at Southampton, Liverpool, Dunstable and London.

Vauxhall would continue to import certain cars and components, but there could be corresponding exports.

He said Vauxhall was building Chevettes at Ellesmere Port for export to West Germany, where they were sold by Opel dealers.

On the Bedford truck operation, Mr McDonald said: "We should be able to do a better job than we have been doing. We are looking to strengthen our dealer body and as we improve the efficiency of the organization in the United Kingdom the opportunities for Bedford are outstanding."

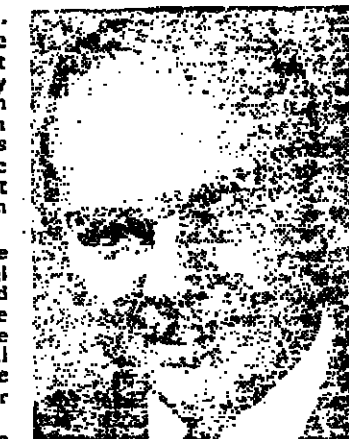
"We fully expect Vauxhall to continue to be a major part of our European operations and we have great expectations for significant growth in Britain

He strongly welcomed the announcement by Nissan, the Japanese manufacturer, that it was looking at the possibility of making Datsun cars in Britain. "It has always been our policy to invest in markets where we are selling and we would rather compete against someone who is producing than shipping cars in," he said.

Mr McDonald praised the efforts of Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of BL, and added: "It is our hope that he makes such a success in the future that the company will become attractive for the private sector to take over again."

He said he expected the United States market to recover in the second half of the year and predicted total sales of 13 million cars and trucks, compared with 12.1 million in 1980.

He rejected the idea of quotas on Japanese car imports, which have been taking a quarter of the market, but thought



Mr John McDonald: investment must be based on success of operations.

there should be a period of voluntary restraint to give American manufacturers a chance to revise their model ranges.

US prime
rates
expected to
fall soon

America's money supply has fallen again and this, together with a sharp fall in loan demand, is likely to push United States interest rates down.

Expectations of lower rates helped to push up share prices on the New York stock exchange. The Dow Jones average closed 5.34 points up at 932.30.

The Federal Reserve announced that M1A fell in the week to January 28 by \$3,300m, while M1B declined by \$2,600m.

The substantial reduction in loan demand is coinciding closely with other broad indicators of the economy's health and these strengthen the impression that economic activity is rapidly weakening.

Charterhouse chief



Mr John B. Hyde, who has been appointed chief executive and managing director of Charterhouse, the merchant bank of the City, said yesterday that the bank's business was "very healthy".

Group, Mr Hyde, who is 53, has been chief executive of Chemical Bank in London. He will replace Mr Derek Wilde as chairman on April 30.

Rolls-Royce funding

Rolls-Royce, the state owned engine manufacturer will reduce its cash requirements next year from its present limit of £200m, according to Mr Peter Molony its finance director.

US textiles talks

EEC Commission officials will open talks next week with officials of the new American Administration on the level of United States synthetic fibre and textile exports, which have become of serious concern to the Community.

Scotland exports coal

Scotland has started to export coal again after a lapse of many years. Three trial orders for Denmark and Sweden will take 7,400 tonnes from Lothian pits.

Shops inquiry urged

The Retail Consortium has called for an independent inquiry into the operation of the Shops Act, covering Sunday trading and opening hours.

Aican UK move

Aican Aluminium, the Canadian aluminium producer, has offered the equivalent of 120p a share for the 22 per cent of Aican Aluminium (UK) it does not own.

SDR rate

The exchange value of the S against the SDR was 1.23839. The £ was 0.530133.

Canadian government loan clears
way for Massey refinancingFrom Anthony Hilton
New York, Feb 6

The future of Massey-Ferguson, which has been in doubt for the past six months, brightened considerably today when Mr Herb Gray, Canada's Minister of Industry, announced that the Canadian authorities had agreed to aid the stricken company.

The guarantee is expected to enable Massey to complete a refinancing deal totalling more than Can\$700m (£280m).

Although registered in Canada, the company employs almost 15,000 people in Britain at its Perkins diesel engine plant and the Ferguson Tractor manufacturing operation. Other plants, notably one in Kilmaronock, have already been closed.

Under the agreement outlined by Mr Gray, the federal govern-

ment will provide the manufacturer with Can\$125m (£44m) and the provincial government in Ontario will inject a further Can\$75m (£26m) thereby meeting in full what the company had asked for.

In return, the company has agreed to site a new research and development plant in Canada in the next three years.

The cash injection takes the form of an equity guarantee and therefore makes it possible for new outside investors to put additional capital into the company at no risk. Massey-Ferguson has had talks with these potential outside investors for some months but has refused publicly to reveal their identities.

However the banks' financial advisers confirmed that it has

been having talks with a number of Canadian financial institutions.

This aid is crucial to the survival of the company. Without it, the other aspects of the company's refinancing package would have collapsed.

Other parts of the rescue package, which have been settled already, include Can\$100m of debt converted into preferred shares and Can\$50m of new preferred shares bought by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Some Can\$280m in interest payments has been forgone by Massey's banks around the world including Barclays. In return for not collecting the interest, the banks will be issued with common shares in the company if they want them.

French deal
on viewdata
unfair,
Prestel says

By Bill Johnstone

Prestel executives believe that the methods employed by the French to win a Brazilian viewdata contract were unfair. The contract, worth as much as £1m, was awarded to the French, apparently as part of a deal that will include satellite communication equipment and package switching units.

The deal was announced to coincide with the state visit of the Brazilian president to France this week and further orders worth £121m are expected to be given to French companies.

Prestel had been in negotiation with Brazil for more than a year. The British viewdata system has been linked for several months to a terminal facility in Sao Paulo, and it is believed that Prestel is being technically superior and furthermore had a firm delivery date has been piped at the political post.

The Prestel system competes at the French Teletel, the Canadian Teletel and may be joined in future by a Japanese system called Capitain.

The Middle East, Africa, parts of the East and South America are the areas where the most lucrative contracts in telecommunications are to be found.

However soft loans with interest rates provided at government level are quickly becoming the standard means of securing contracts in developing countries.

Earlier this week in London, Mr Frank Chorley, deputy chairman and managing director of Plessey Electronic Systems, called for the British Government to help provide adequate guarantees.

£1,000m Treasury stock for sale

By John Whitmore

After the rapid sell-off of its £1,000m convertible stock offering at the start of the week, the Government is to make a £1,000m issue of conventional short-dated stock next week.

The new stock, Treasury 12 per cent 1986, will be offered for sale by tender in parallel with the next Wednesday. At the minimum tender price of 96 per cent, the flat yield is 12.5 per cent and the gross yield to redemption 13.08 per cent.

The stock will be payable as to £20 per cent on application and £80 per cent on March 13. The balance will fall due on April 10. The phasing of payments in this way will provide the Government with a contribution to its funding requirements in each of the next three banking months.

Market reaction to the new stock was neutral. Investors are likely to make up their minds on whether or not to subscribe in the light of the January banking figures, to be released on Tuesday.

It was assumed in the market that the authorities would not have gone ahead with a new stock issue had they not felt fairly confident that Tuesday's bank figures would be acceptable to gilt-edged investors.

Whether or not the government would follow an easing policy of banking figures with a reduction in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate next Thursday remains an open question.

Market opinion is divided on the likelihood of a cut ahead of next month's Budget. But short term money market rates continue to point to a reduction before very long, and the yield on Treasury bills fell further yesterday.

At the weekly tender the average rate of discount at which new three-month bills were allocated eased from 12.61 to 12.42 per cent.

The growing speculation on an early reduction in MLR has brought about some easing in sterling over the week.

Yesterday the pound rallied from early weakness against

the dollar to close 35 points higher at \$2.3440. Over the week, however, it has fallen 2.3 points, while its index against a basket of currencies has slipped from 105.2 to 103.8.

Generally speaking, the dollar had another good day yesterday, the Bank of England dollar index, showing a rise of 0.4 to 99.3.

The Deutsche mark, after early weakness, staged a good recovery against the dollar, to finish 31 points higher at DM 2.1387.

Earlier in the day the Deutsche mark had been as low as DM 2.1600. But then the West German Federal Bank took steps to tighten domestic liquidity, putting upward pressure on short term rates. It also entered into DM 4,000m of short-term foreign currency swap arrangements with the banks to draw further marks out of the system.

In addition, it directly supported the German currency against both the dollar and the French franc.

Budget fears for clearers on 'windfall' profits tax

Generous banks irk Mrs Thatcher

Whatever love may be left between the clearing banks and the Prime Minister is fading fast because of the high level of monetary expansion, and what is seen in government circles as the banks' responsibility for it.

The matter was discussed again at a lunch earlier this week given for Mrs Thatcher by the Committee of London Clearing Banks attended by the chairman of Britain's leading banks.

To judge by the defensive comments of Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, in a speech this week it seems clear that the issues will reverberate at least until next month's Budget when the banks

will know just how annoyed the Government is with them.

Sir Jeremy, without specifically mentioning windfall profits, said that bank profits were "barely adequate to maintain free capital in real terms".

During the lunch frank exchange of views took place between Mrs Thatcher and the bankers, and the banks have now written to her to explain their role during the present economic climate.

The Prime Minister believes that the banks have been undermining government policy by lending too freely. This had already been raised at a first anniversary lunch for NOW magazine last autumn when Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, chairman of National Westminster,

caught the rough edge of Mrs Thatcher's tongue.

The banks have been worried by the renewed talk of a tax on windfall profits, and are particularly concerned that this may be linked to current accounts on which they are said to make "endowment profits" because they pay no interest.

Feelings among the bankers after the lunch were mixed. Some felt that they had dispelled any possibility of a new tax, but others were more pessimistic.

The clearing banks say they are bending backwards to help industry. As one put it: "We are currently lending to industry well beyond our normal prudential criteria."

Roman Eisenstein

A GUIDE TO INVESTMENT TRUSTS-4

Vital statistics

An investor looking at Investment Trusts for the first time will see that the statistics most commonly used to assess Investment Trusts are quite different from those used to judge industrial companies, where commentators refer to price, earnings and cash flow ratios.

For Investment Trusts such statistics have little relevance. In this sector we talk of net asset values (NAVs), dividend yields, total returns and discounts. The calculation of these statistics and their relevance are explained in the following paragraphs.

Net asset value

The net asset value of an Investment Trust expresses its net worth in pence per Ordinary share. It is arrived at by totalling the Trust's listed investments valued at mid-market prices, its undivided investments at directors' valuation, its cash on deposit, and its current assets. From this total are deducted the value of the Preference capital and any prior charges such as debenture or loan stocks, which rank ahead of Ordinary shareholders, and also the current liabilities. The result is divided by the number of shares in issue to give the net asset value per share (or NAV).

The movement of NAV is important since it shows the performance of the underlying portfolio and, in turn, the effectiveness of the managers.

The difference between an Investment Trust's NAV per share and the market price of its Ordinary shares is expressed as either the discount or the premium (see Guide Number 5).

Yield

The dividend yield, which represents the income return on an investment, has particular relevance since its level is governed by factors not applicable to, say, an industrial company. In particular, Investment Trusts are required to distribute nearly all their net income as dividends but must not distribute as dividend any gains made on portfolio transactions. These gains are retained within the Trust.

Total return

Total return statistics, which combine changes in capital values and income received, enable the investor to make comparisons between individual Investment Trusts with different investment and dividend policies, e.g. capital appreciation or income growth.

These statistics are computed on two main bases: one is on the NAV performance of the Trust, assuming that the dividends received are reinvested in its assets; the other is on the share price performance of the Trust assuming that the dividends it pays are reinvested in its own shares.

Both measurements have their uses but, as the statistics cover an arbitrary period and are historic, they may be poor indicators for the future, particularly if a Trust's management, policy or objectives have changed.

Sources of information

The major source of statistical information is The Association of Investment Trust Companies which represents some 200 Investment Trusts and publishes the following, copies of which can be obtained from the Secretary at the address below:

1. The Investment Trust Table, a table of useful statistics, published in the Financial Times and The Daily Telegraph on the fourth Saturday of every month.
2. The Official Investment Trust Year Book which is a comprehensive work of reference on the industry.
3. Monthly Statistics of Management Performance and Share Record, available free via a mailing list.

In addition, the Association publishes a free booklet entitled "Investment Trusts today".

It is essential to compare like with like and not to view one statistic in isolation. The skill lies in interpretation rather than in knowing the methods of calculation. While it is possible to find something the experts have missed, there is a case for seeking guidance.

Next Saturday: Gearing? Discount?

Reprints of the complete eight-part series which makes up "A Guide to Investment Trusts" are available on request from The Secretary, The Association of Investment Trust Companies, Park House (Sixth Floor), 16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7JJ. Or telephone 01-585 5347.

THE ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANIES

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Amber Dr 29p to 27p
Electrolux B 63p to 62p
GEC 139p to 138p
ICL 3p to 37p
IDC Group 8p to 71p

Falls

Bell A 4p to 164p
Rockhouse 31p to 27p
Cons Gold Field 15p to 42p
Graindays 7p to 15p
Hill & Smith 4p to 55p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia S	1.99	1.99
Austria Sch	37.30	35.10
Belgium Fr	63.75	79.75
Canada S	2.88	2.79
Denmark Kr	16.18	15.30
Finland Mk	9.88	9.38
France Fr	11.95	11.45
Germany DM	5.22	4.98
Greece Dr	119.00	113.00
Hongkong S	12.95	12.95
Ireland Rd	1.39	1.33
Italy Lit	2510.00	2400.00
Japan Yen	498.00	472.00
Netherlands Gld	5.66	5.40

Norway Kr

Norway Kr 13.15
Portugal Esc 134.00
Sth Africa Rd 2.20
Spain Pta 202.00
Sweden Kr 11.71
Switzerland Lfr 4.73
USA S 2.39
Yugoslavia Dnr 88.50

Bank buys 15p to 186p
Bank sells 40p to 680p
Stock Exchange 12p to 350p
Weeks Petrol 17p to 39p

MK Electric 4p to 184p
Merriman Res 15p to 60p
Mitsubishi 11p to 128p
Newmarket L 7p to 34p
Sotheby, P. B. 10p to 42p

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Barclays Bank International Ltd. provides rates only to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Edited by Margaret Stone

Cost of a holiday accident

Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Ronald Irving, John Drummond and Tony Foreman

and reasonable and represents a legitimate business expense. (L&B, Manchester.)

Expenses incurred in travelling to the property to carry out maintenance should be allowable but difficulties may arise if you carry out the repairs while you and your family stay at the villa on holiday. The travelling expenses may be wholly or partly disallowed if your visit is partly for private reasons. Moreover, you will not be permitted any deduction for the value of maintenance work carried out by yourself: that is, it is only the actual expenditure on material and labour and the like which qualifies for relief—not the notional cost which will be payable if you called in a builder and decorator to carry out the whole of the work.

Recently, under the auspices of a well-known tour company, my wife and I went on a 10-day sea-coast tour of France. The tourists were allowed to take one suitcase each which would be stored in the coach's luggage compartment, plus a small hold-all to keep on the coach. Unfortunately, at the coach on Ostend quayside, only one of our two cases turned up. Now over two weeks later the missing case still has not been traced.

At the time of booking we paid an insurance fee to provide a cover for possible cancellation and curtailment of the holiday, medical expenses, personal accident and also loss of or damage to personal baggage and money. The insurance company is separate from the coach tour company. I note in the summary of conditions pertaining to the insurance of baggage there are various clauses which, I believe, could result in our not receiving any value of the missing case and its contents, depending on how rigorously the conditions can be and are applied in the event of us making a claim.

For instance, one condition is: "No one article shall be deemed of greater value than £100." It seems to me that the word "article" could be used to mean the case together with all its contents, or the case could be considered one article and each individual item in the case as another article. Also there is an exclusion condition which refers to the first £5 of each and every claim relating to confiscation, detention, wear, and tear and the like. Quite a lot of the case's contents were new for us to go on holiday.

Could you please say how we stand in the event of our case not turning up? (WJ, Dartford.)

It is, of course, too late to suggest that the local police should be contacted. We hope you did so, and that you advised the insurers without delay of the full circumstances.

Without knowing the contents of the master policy, we cannot give you a definitive reply on how you will stand. It is likely, however, that the £100 item limit applies to individual items within the case (for example, an item of jewelry, a camera, and the like), and it would seem as though the only deduction will be a single £5. Are you sure, however, that the insurance cover was adequate for the two cases, plus everything you were wearing and carrying? If you were under-insured, a claim might be scaled down in the same proportion as the under-insurance.

Sadly, you will not be able to claim for the distress, discomfort, etc. due to the holiday being ruined. The insurance may be on a new-for-old basis (thus paying for the full cost of buying replacements new), but it is more likely that, for the items which were not new, some deduction will be made to allow for depreciation and the use which already you had enjoyed from the items.

My husband, who owns a small boat business in Spain, is owed nearly £900 by an English owner whose boat he delivered to Greece. Once the boat arrived safely, the owner refused to pay, chiefly because of what he chooses to regard as about five or six days' delay, even though the estimate given to him clearly states "this estimate must be given on a daily basis due to existing and forecasted variable weather conditions". Having heard, on the radio, I think, that the costs involved make it pointless to try to recover debts of about £500 here, I wonder what you think our chances are of trying to fight for our money from Spain for a boat now in Greece? I feel very strongly that a wealthy boatowner should not be allowed to do this. (AIG Oxford.)

The legal merits of your husband's claim appear to be well founded, assuming that there is no substance in the owner's complaint. Accordingly, unless the delay was attributable to your husband's negligent seamanship or was otherwise avoidable, the owner will have no defence.

However, there are likely to be practical difficulties in bringing and enforcing the claim owing to the problem of jurisdiction. Assuming that

your husband can establish that it was agreed that the owner would send the money to your husband's Oxford address, it would be worth issuing a summons in the Oxford County Court. Alternatively, your husband could request a summons in the county court where the owner has his English address. As it is an agreed (liquidated) sum payable under a contract, your husband should issue a default summons. The court officer will provide the necessary form (called a "Request") on which your husband can enter his name as "Plaintiff". The fee on a claim for £900 is £25, plus £4 for service by the court bailiff.

If the owner has no address in England you will have to get the court registrar's directions for service of the summons abroad under county court rule 46. If you cannot pin down the owner for personal service, the registrar can order "substituted" service.

The advantage of a default summons is that your husband can apply for judgment on a simple form without a court hearing, should the owner fail to file a defence at the court within 14 days of being served. There are a number of ways you can enforce the judgment. If the owner has assets in the United Kingdom, you can levy execution on them. If he has a bank account, you can get the money from his bank by issuing a garnishee summons. If he has a house or land you get a charging order on it. To find out what assets he has you can summon him to court for oral examination as to his means. If he is abroad you can apply to freeze his assets in the United Kingdom, pending judgment.

If the boat comes back to England, it can be arrested. Under section 83 of the County Courts Act 1959 the court can issue a warrant for the arrest and detention of the vessel. You should also look at section 56 of that Act which covers claims in the nature of towage or by a master for damage to the crew "up to £5,000".

The problems of enforcing an English judgment abroad and foreign judgments in England are dealt with under order 71 of the Supreme Court Practice. A judgment of the county court is not enforceable abroad. However, if your husband takes proceedings in the High Court that judgment will be enforceable in certain foreign countries, namely France, Italy, Belgium and West Germany and certain former Commonwealth countries also, but not Spain or Greece. (EEC regulations regarding reciprocity are not yet in force.)

The owner has substantial assets in Spain, it would be futile to take proceedings there. A judgment in a Spanish court is not enforceable in England because (as we have said) there is no reciprocity between Spain and the United Kingdom for the purpose of enforcing judgments. It is also extremely unlikely that a judgment of a Spanish court is recognized in Greece as a basis for attachment proceedings there.

Now, from Framlington, an opportunity to invest in Convertible Loan Stocks and Gilts

1. THE AIM of Framlington Convertible and Gilt Trust is to combine high income with capital growth by investing in convertible loan stocks and government securities.

2. Convertible loan stocks come into their own in times of uncertainty. They represent a balance between investing for capital growth in ordinary shares and investing for high yields in safe but inflation-vulnerable fixed interest stocks.

A convertible loan stock is a fixed interest stock; but with the special feature that it bears rights for future conversion into ordinary shares on pre-arranged terms. This means that over and above the usually high and secure yield, there is potential for capital growth if the company concerned prospers.

3. Selecting convertible stocks requires experience and careful analysis. A unit trust with a managed and diversified portfolio is the ideal vehicle.

Until last year's Finance Act, such a trust was ruled out by tax disadvantages; but now, for the first time, it is possible to offer investors the opportunity of investing in a unit trust which will divide its funds between convertibles and government securities.

A unit trust investing in convertibles is new to the U.K., but it is not a new idea: certain Swiss banks run successful convertible bond funds.

4. Although initially a greater proportion may be in gilts, the ultimate mix of the portfolio is intended to be as follows:

50 per cent or so will be in convertibles with almost as good growth potential as the ordinary shares of those same companies. The yields on these would be lower than on the portfolio as a whole.

25 per cent will be in convertibles chosen for their yields, where the conversion options appear less valuable. These stocks can be regarded as low priced fixed interest securities, but with a long-shot chance of extra capital growth.

25 per cent will be in the highest-possible yielding government securities.

It is estimated that the annual gross yield will be about 10.1 per cent on the full initial offer price of 50p (that is, without allowing for the benefit of the initial bonus).

5. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

6. Unit trust investment should be regarded as long term.

7. The name Framlington has become synonymous with good investment management. Moreover, there are other features to this trust which prospective investors might like to consider:

Bonus offer The initial management charge is 5%. But applications received with cheques during the initial offer and until 31st March (or until the trust reaches £10 million if earlier) will be given a free bonus in the form of additional units on the following scale:

From £300 to £1,000: 1% bonus
The next £4,000 : 2% bonus
Excess over £5,000 : 3% bonus

Annual charge The annual charge will be only 1/2%+VAT.

Spread The spread between bid and offer prices, including 2% stamp duty, will normally be a maximum of 5% of the offer price.

Settlement When units are sold back, a cheque for the full bid value will normally be sent within 3 days of receipt of the renounced certificate.

8. Units in Framlington Convertible and Gilt Trust are available at the initial offer price of 50p each until 12 noon on Friday 27th February. The minimum investment is 600 units, which cost £300, to which bonus units would be added. After 27th February units will be available at the ruling offer price.

Other information

Applications will be acknowledged; certificates will be sent by the registrars, Lloyds Bank Limited, within 42 days.

Income net of basic rate tax is distributed to unitholders on 15th February and 15th August. The first distribution will be on 15th August 1981.

Units may be bought and sold daily. Prices and yields are published daily in leading newspapers.

Commission of 1/2%+VAT is paid to qualified intermediaries.

The trust is an authorised unit trust constituted by Trust Deed. It ranks as a wider range security under the Trustee Investments Act, 1961. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Limited.

The managers are Framlington Unit Management Limited, 64 London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ. Telephone: 01-628 5181. Registered in London No. 895241. Member of the Unit Trust Association. This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

INITIAL BONUS OFFER

of units in Framlington Convertible and Gilt Trust at 50p each until 12 noon on 27th February 1981.

After 27th February units will be allocated at the offer price ruling on receipt of your cheque.

Until 31st March 1981, or until the trust reaches £10 million if earlier, a special bonus will be given in the form of additional units, on this scale.

From £300 to £1,000: 1% extra units
The next £4,000 : 2% extra units
Excess over £5,000 : 3% extra units

To: Framlington Unit Management Limited, 64 London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ

I/We wish to invest the sum of £..... (minimum £300) in Framlington Convertible and Gilt Trust and enclose a cheque payable to Framlington Unit Management Limited. I am/we are over 18. For accumulation units in which income is reinvested, tick here. ☐

Surname Mr/Mrs/Miss..... BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Full forename(s).....

Address.....

Signature(s)..... T7/2

(Just applicants should fill, sign and give details separately)

FRAMLINGTON

Round-up

A fresh batch of unit trusts

A spate of new unit trusts has been launched this week, three of them by Schroder Unit Trust Managers. The new Schroder American, aiming for capital growth, will invest mainly in energy, advanced technology and health care stocks in the United States and Canada. The new Tokyo fund, also a growth trust, will invest mainly in manufacturing industries in Japan, particularly in new technology. The third, and launched by Schroders, the unit trust arm of the investment and banking

Investor's week

The real test is still to come

Gradually, it's spring. Oh, I know that frost in the shape of dismal annual profits and a yet dividend could come from it on February 26 and an unseasonable blizzard of a Budget could blow on March 10. Obviously, the Budget is very early this year, suggesting that Sir Geoffrey Howe wants to start collecting heavier taxes as soon as possible; and he may want to do so because the Treasury has got its sums wrong yet again. The gilt-edged market will be horrified if it learns that the Government wants to borrow more than £13,000m. Institutions would wilt before a barrage of gilt-edged stocks.

Yet this week the FT index rose from 466.3 to 480.3 and it is encouraging to recall that on January 14 it was as low as 446 (when the eminent were telling us to sell). A gain of nearly 8 per cent is, I admit, trivial—dealing costs are 8 per cent or more and who anyway gets his money right?—but it points in the right direction.

All the same, it is a case of crocuses in early spring rather than chrysanthemums in late summer. The FT index of leading industrials is up 7 per cent, but the FT Actuaries All-Share index of 750 stocks is barely 4 per cent ahead. In other words, a few big names have led the way but most shares have yet to follow.

Daily business has picked up somewhat, but the latest figures to hand as I write—those for February 4—record equity turn-

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's High	Year's Low	Company	Change	Comment
119p	56p	BOC	9p to 119p	Broker's seminar
110p	50p	Grattan	6p to 74p	Bid gossip
99p	65p	Hanleys	10p to 82p	Takeover talk
122p	115p	Lee Cooper	11p to 183p	Soviet order
220p	72p	Lorho	10p to 107p	Year's ligs
89p	82p	Allied Brew	3p to 84p	Beer output, Budget fears
141p	70p	Avon Rubber	8p to 80p	Forecast loss
790p	413p	Electrocomp	27p to 643p	In sympathy with Unitech
198p	31p	ICL	10p to 217p	First qtr £20m loss
364p	195p	Unitech	24p to 226p	Poor forecast

over at only £127.5m. A year ago it was £154m.

Finally, the real test of shares has yet to come. Within weeks we shall be in the thick of companies telling us how badly they are doing and the figures they will report will almost certainly look bad. This time last year they were all doing well and it was only in the third quarter of last year that business fell off a cliff.

But the great thing about the past is that it is over. This week Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England, told us that the worst of the recession is behind us and we had hints from Mrs Thatcher that her Government was indeed mindful of the need to get the strong pound down against other currencies so that

their wing, envisage that the new fund, with an estimated gross yield of 10.1 per cent, will hold half its investments in low yielding convertibles with good capital growth prospects, a further quarter in high yielding counterparts to boost income and the remainder in gilts.

The minimum investment is £300 (with an initial bonus offer of between 1 per cent and 3 per cent extra units, depending on the size of the investment).

The initial charge is 5 per cent and there is an annual levy of 0.5 per cent.

Another fixed interest unit trust with a difference is one from Mercury Fund Managers, a subsidiary of merchant bank S. C. Warburg & Co. Rather than concentrating on income, the Mercury Gilt Fund intends to maximise the total return, with protection of capital

values given prime consideration.

The charges on the fund differ from the usual structure in that there is no initial charge, but the annual charge is fairly high at 1 per cent. This reflects the managers' view that the amount investors pay in charges should depend on the length of time they invest in the fund. The minimum investment in this new trust is high at £2,500.

Liberty Life Assurance has launched its 2-Year Plus Rising Income Bond, where the yield on the investment rises with the term. The bond has a maximum term of four years, but can be surrendered for the full value of the investment at the end of year two or three.

The bond offers a 11.2 per cent return, after basic rate tax, during the first two years, rising to 12.6 and 14 per cent respectively.

Chris Salinas, his one-time industrial colleague Mr Charles Metcalfe, found himself calling publicly for money to save his company Norvic. Luckily for him and his 1,100-strong workforce, Barclay's Bank dug into its ample pockets.

Christie-Tyler in furniture joined us with half-time losses and halved dividend, but Blundell-Permonage in paints maintained its dividend despite plunging profits.

Lorho raised profits from £78.2m to £119.1m for the year to last September, after three years of marking time, and the dividend went up a third.

Fears of a BOC cash call subsided after a City broking lunch, while the decision to allow British Telecom to borrow directly from institutions gave a fillip to the whole electronics sector. It was seen as a sign that its heavy investment programme would go ahead to the benefit of its suppliers.

Half of British Aerospace is to be offered to investors and the prospectus was well received.

However, markets do not go up in a straight line. Once we get a cut in minimum lending rate we may for a few weeks have little but a dismal deluge of company news to ponder.

All the same, I still suspect that those waiting for a big financial casualty like a Burmah Oil or Rolls-Royce will be disappointed.

Peter Wainwright

New time demand

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

* Ex dividend. * Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension.
Dividends and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid
company. i Pre-merger figures. j Forecast earnings. j
significant change. k Ex rights or shares. l
Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. ** A significant date.

RECENT ISSUES	
Allied London Prop 8½% Cvt 1999 (z)	Clostridin
Bell L. 8¼% Cvt 1999-2001	Prius
Chenstar Water 9¾ Red Pref 1985 (t)	Prism
Dumbar Group 7½% Cvt 1996 (t)	S&P
East Anglian Water 9¾ Red Pref 1985 (t)	TIGR
East Worcester Water 9¾ Red Pref 1985 (t)	Zigzag
Fairfax 10½% Cvt 1996 (t)	1000-
Echamcher 12¾ Cvt 1985 (1977)s	401(s)
Exchequer 12¾ "A" 1985 (t)	180-(s)
Exchequer 12¾ "B" 1985 (t)	110-(s)
First National 10½% Cvt 1996 (t)	110-(s)
London Merchant 8¾ Cvt Ln 2000-03	120
New Tokyo Int'l Trust 2000-01	110-(s)
Portals 9¾ Cvt 1985-2000 (t)	110-(s)
Treasury 11½% 2003 "A" (t)	120
Treasury 11½% 2003-2007 "A" (t)	120

	Lastest date of issue	
RIGHTS ISSUES		
Northern (80%)	Mar '92	18 percent

Issue price in parentheses.	Ex dividend.
** 1000 = £1 million	

Offshore and International Funds

subjects of today into

هَكَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

